



An unmanned Army surveillance blimp floats through the air while dragging a tether line just south of Millville, Pa., Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015.

Associated Press  
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## In unity bid, House Republicans nominate Ryan as speaker

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Republicans in the House of Representatives nominated Wisconsin Republican Rep. Paul Ryan on Wednesday to become the chamber's next speaker, hoping he can lead them out of weeks of disarray and point them toward accomplishments they can highlight in next year's elections.

The 45-year-old Ryan was his party's 2012 vice presidential nominee and is considered a telegenic spokesman for conservative priorities. If elected speaker, he would assume one of the most powerful political offices in the United States and a job that puts him second in line of succession to become president. Ryan won on a secret ballot of the House's 247 Republicans. Current speaker John Boehner unexpectedly announced his resignation last month. He came under pressure from hard line conservatives who considered him too timid in challenging President Barack Obama and too autocratic in punishing Republican lawmakers who defied him.

The full House is expected to elect Ryan as speaker on Thursday.

As that vote took place, bipartisan leaders pushed a two-year budget truce toward approval in the House. The agreement,



**Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., flanked by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Wash., left, and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Calif., speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015, after a Special GOP Leadership Election.**

eventually approved 266-167, must still pass the Senate. It would raise the government's borrowing limit through March of 2017, averting an unprecedented default just days away. It also would set the budget of the federal government for the next two years, lifting onerous spending caps and steering away from the brinkmanship and shutdown threats that have haunted Congress for years.

Most of the "no" votes were from Republicans, but 79 Republican lawmakers voted for approval. Republican leaders hope

that both of Wednesday's milestones will transform their party's recent chaos into calm before next year's presidential and congressional campaigns. Democratic and Republican leaders had urged lawmakers to back the budget agreement, which would resolve fights over both military and domestic spending as well as federal borrowing until early 2017. Expectations were for a final Senate approval by next week, even as hard-right conservatives and farm-state lawmakers arrayed against the deal. Hours before the vote,

Ryan said he would support the bill because it makes "meaningful reforms" that strengthen safety net programs like Social Security and provides sufficient resources for the military.

"What has been produced will go a long way toward relieving the uncertainty hanging over us," Ryan said in a written statement. At a Wednesday morning closed-door meeting, Ryan had told House Republicans what he won't do as speaker. "I don't plan to be Caesar, calling all the shots around here," Rep. Matt Salmon reported after the session.

**Associated Press**

That seemed to be a reference to demands hardline conservatives have made to transfer more power over legislation from House leaders to rank-and-file lawmakers. Those conservatives have said the secret negotiations by which leaders crafted the budget deal typified departing Boehner's top-down approach to legislating, and Ryan said Tuesday that that process "stinks."

Boehner was pivotal in crafting the budget agreement, which amounts to a valedictory legislative prize for his supporters and a whack at his conservative House nemeses. The quarter-century House veteran serves his final day in Congress on Friday, driven into retirement by rebellious Republican hardliners who scorned his penchant for compromise with Obama and Democrats.

Without the legislation, the government could lapse into an economy-jolting default next week. A partial federal shutdown would occur without action by Dec. 11.

The unyielding conservatives who comprise the House Freedom Caucus announced their opposition to the budget deal Wednesday, though the measure passed with support from scores of Republicans and most Democrats. □



**First lady Michelle Obama speak during an event in the Blue Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015. Mrs. Obama announced a new partnership to further adolescent girls' education in Pakistan as a part of the Let Girls Learn initiative that aims to help adolescent girls around the globe attend and complete school.**

**Associated Press**

**DARLENE SUPERVILLE**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Michelle Obama will spend

next week in Qatar and Jordan to promote her global education initiative for girls, the White House

## First lady to make solo visit to Middle East

announced Wednesday. It will be her first official visit to the Middle East.

In Doha, Qatar, Mrs. Obama is scheduled to speak about the Let Girls Learn initiative at the 2015 World Innovation Summit for Education, which draws education leaders from the region and around the world.

She will also visit service members stationed at Al Udeid Air Base as part of her separate initiative to support U.S. military families. In Amman, Jordan, the

first lady will tour a school that was built with money and technical support provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as meet with adolescent girls who are students there. Many schools in Jordan are educating more and more Syrian children, many of whom have crossed the border into Jordan with their families to flee violence fueled by the civil war in their home country. While in Jordan, Mrs. Obama plans a cultural

stop to see Petra, one of the world's most famous archaeological sites.

Mrs. Obama plans official meetings in both countries. She'll travel without the president, her daughters or other immediate family members.

President Barack Obama and the first lady launched Let Girls Learn this year to encourage the leaders of other countries to provide opportunities for education to the estimated 62 million girls around the world who do not attend school. □



# Army blimp breaks loose, drifts over Pennsylvania

**MUNCY, Pennsylvania (AP)**

— An unmanned Army surveillance blimp broke loose from its mooring in Maryland and floated over Pennsylvania for hours Wednesday with two U.S. fighter jets on its tail, triggering blackouts across the countryside as it dragged its tether across power lines.

The bulbous, 240-foot (73-meter) helium-filled blimp finally came down near Muncy, a small town about 80 miles (128 kilometers) north of Harrisburg, as people across the countryside gawked in wonder at the big, white, slow-moving craft.

The North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado said the blimp escaped from its station at the military's Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, just outside the nation's capital, at about 12:20 p.m. and drifted northward, climbing to about 16,000 feet (4,877 meters). It covered about 150 miles (241 kilometers) in all. As the blimp drifted away, two F-16s were scrambled from a National Guard base at Atlantic City, New Jersey, to track it, though NORAD spokesman Navy Capt. Scott Miller said there was never any intention of shooting it down.

The blimp deflated and settled back to Earth on its own, according to Miller. He said there was an auto-deflate device aboard the blimp, but it was not deliberately activated, and it is unclear why the craft went limp.

Witnesses watched it float over a sparsely populated area, its tether snapping power lines.

Tiffany Slusser Hartkorn saw it fly over her neighborhood on the outskirts of Bloomsburg around 2:15 p.m. and soon disappear from sight. "I honestly was worried that there were people in it that would be injured. A neighbor down the road is thinking it knocked down a tree branch and power pole

by his house that could've potentially destroyed his house," Hartkorn said.

Wendy Schafer's first thought upon seeing the blimp near her job at a spa and salon in Bloomsburg was that a nearby school was conducting an experiment.

"I had no idea what it was. We lost power at work so I looked outside and saw the blimp," Schafer said. "My first thought was Vo-Tech was doing something at the school until my friends tagged on Facebook about the blimp. It was crazy."

About 27,000 customers in two counties were left without power, according to electric utility PPL, and Bloomsburg University canceled classes because of the outage.

The blimp is the kind used extensively in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to provide surveillance around U.S. bases and other sensitive sites. It is tethered to the ground when in use, the cable carrying power up to the blimp and sending data back down to the ground, and can reach 10,000 feet (3,048 meters), according to its maker, Raytheon Co.

"My understanding is, from having seen these break loose in Afghanistan on a number of occasions, we could get it to descend and then we'll recover it and put it back up," Defense Secretary Ash Carter said at the Pentagon as the journey unfolded. "This happens in bad weather." As the journey unfolded, Federal Aviation Administration officials worked with the military to ensure it did not endanger air traffic.

Miller said the blimp was tethered to a mooring station at an altitude of about 6,600 feet (2,011 meters) when it broke free. He said how that happened is unknown, and an investigation is under way.

Raytheon Co. referred questions to the military. But

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Part of an unmanned Army surveillance blimp hangs off a group of trees along County Line Road near the Montour and Lycoming county line, Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015 after crash landing near Muncy, Pa.

Associated Press

on its website, the defense contractor said the chances of the tether breaking are small because it made of a durable synthetic fiber that has withstood storms of about 110 mph (177 kph).

The aircraft is known as a Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor System, or JLENS, and can be used as part of a missile defense system.

The blimp was operating at the Aberdeen Proving Ground as part of a test of the systems that defend the nation's capital against cruise missiles and other airborne threats. □





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## Ex-House Speaker Hastert pleads guilty to evading bank laws

**MICHAEL TARM**  
**Associated Press**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Dennis Hastert pleaded guilty Wednesday to evading banking laws in a hush-money scheme, averting a trial by agreeing to a deal with federal prosecutors that recommends the former House speaker serve no more than six months in prison.

The plea helped seal the downfall of a man who rose from obscurity in rural Illinois to the nation's third-highest political office. During his eight years as speaker, Hastert was second in the line of succession to the presidency.

Before accepting the plea, the 73-year-old Republican was warned by the judge that he could go beyond the recommendation and give Hastert up to five years behind bars when he is sentenced in February.

Because the plea agreement has a sentencing range from no prison time to six months, U.S. District Judge Thomas M. Durkin could also decide to put Hastert on probation or home confinement.

As he stepped to the lectern to answer a series of questions, he spoke in a voice so soft that the judge at one point told him to speak up.

The hearing revealed no new details about why Hastert agreed to pay \$3.5 million to an unidentified person. The indictment says the payments were meant to conceal past misconduct by Hastert against

that person, but it does not explain the nature of the wrongdoing.

The Associated Press and other media, citing anonymous sources, have reported that the payments were meant to hide claims of sexual misconduct from decades ago.

At the half-hour hearing in Chicago, a subdued Hastert read from a brief written statement that — like his indictment — focused narrowly on how he technically broke banking laws.

By pleading guilty, Hastert avoids a trial that could have divulged the embarrassing secrets dating back to his days as a high-school wrestling coach that he presumably wanted to keep under wraps by paying hush money.

Judges are also generally more likely to give lighter sentences to defendants who accept responsibility for their actions and spare the government the cost of a trial.

The 15-page plea deal, which Hastert signed Wednesday, was released after the hearing. In it, he acknowledged the unnamed person and that the two "discussed past misconduct" by Hastert against that person, who is only referred to as "Individual A." That discussion led to the agreement for \$3.5 million.

In exchange for the plea, prosecutors were expected to drop a charge stemming from lying to the FBI. Sentencing was scheduled for Feb. 29. □



Former U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert leaves the federal courthouse Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015, in Chicago, where he changed his plea to guilty in a hush-money case that alleges he agreed to pay someone \$3.5 million to hide claims of past misconduct.

Associated Press





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# AP-GfK Poll: Support for tighter gun laws ticks up

KATHLEEN HENNESSEY  
EMILY SWANSON

Associated Press

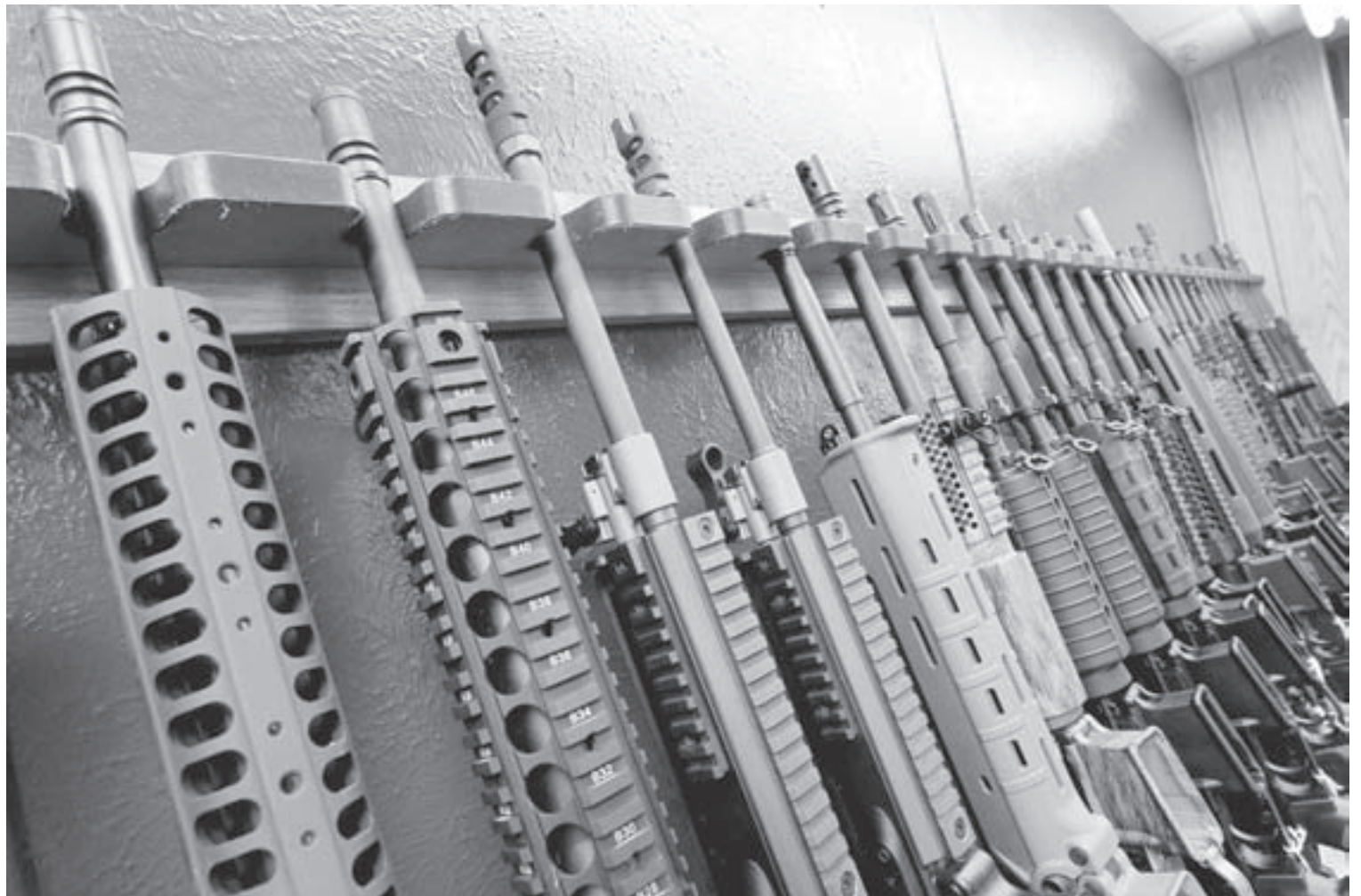
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — After a steady string of mass shootings and a revival of the political fight over gun control, Americans are slightly more likely than they were two years ago to say gun laws should be made stricter, a new Associated Press-GfK poll found.

Despite the uptick in favor of tighter gun laws, Americans remain deeply divided along party, gender and geographic lines on an issue that has ricocheted into the presidential campaign. Eight in 10 Democrats favor stricter gun laws, while 6 in 10 Republicans want them left as they are or loosened.

Still, the results show the calls for tighter laws have some bipartisan appeal, with 37 percent of Republicans, including 31 percent of conservative Republicans, favoring stricter gun laws.

The new poll was taken two weeks after the shooting rampage at a community college in Oregon thrust the discussion of gun control into the country's attention and the presidential campaign. Polls regularly find a rise in support for tighter gun laws after such shootings — although that support often levels off as the headlines fade.

In December 2013, one



In this July 20, 2012, file photo, a row of different AR-15 style rifles are displayed for sale at the Firing-Line indoor range and gun shop in Aurora, Colo.

Associated Press

year after a mass shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, 52 percent of Americans said gun laws should be made tighter. That number was 58 percent in the new poll, while 27 percent said they think laws should be left as they are and 12 percent favored making gun laws less strict.

Over a third of Americans said gun laws should be made much stricter, up from 29 percent who said so in the 2013 poll.

And they were slightly less inclined to see laws limiting gun ownership as an infringement on the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms. Forty-five percent saw such laws as an infringement; 51 percent did not. In the 2013 poll, 50 per-

cent said gun laws infringe on the right to bear arms and 47 percent said they did not.

Gun control has become one of the top issues in the Democratic presidential primary, as front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton has promised to take executive action to expand background checks and accused Republicans of bowing to the powerful gun lobby. President Barack Obama has said he plans to use his bully pulpit to press lawmakers to pass tougher laws, although there's little sign of momentum in the Republican-run Congress.

The poll finds Democratic politicians are in line with their party's loyalists. Democrats are more likely than

Republicans — 69 percent to 55 percent — to say gun laws are very or extremely important to them.

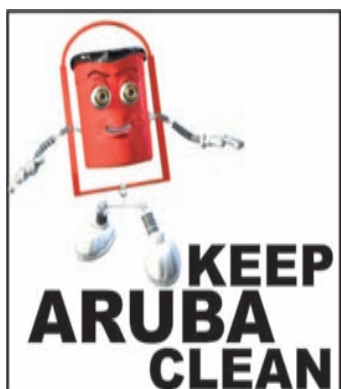
City and suburban dwellers are more likely to back tighter laws than rural Americans.

Americans are equally divided over which party they trust to do a better job handling the issue. Twenty-nine percent say they trust the Republicans more and 27 percent trust the Democrats more, while 13 percent say they trust both equally. An additional 30 percent say they trust neither party on handling the issue.

Unchanged since 2013 is the share of Americans living in a household where at least one person owns a gun — about one-third.

About half of Republicans live in households with a gun, compared with less than a third of Democrats or independents.

The AP-GfK Poll of 1,027 adults was conducted online Oct. 15 to Oct. 19, using a sample drawn from GfK's probability-based KnowledgePanel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.3 percentage points. Respondents were first selected randomly using telephone or mail survey methods, and later interviewed online. People selected for KnowledgePanel who didn't otherwise have access to the Internet were provided access at no cost to them. □







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## Irish leader visits California to honor balcony victims

LISA LEFF

Associated Press

**BERKELEY, Calif. (AP)** — The president of Ireland met with Berkeley's mayor, public safety workers, health care providers and area residents on Wednesday to thank them for helping when a balcony snapped off an apartment building, killing six college students and injuring seven others. President Michael Higgins called the balcony collapse that happened during a birthday party on June 16 "a tragedy that has affected our people very deeply." Five of the young people who died were from Ireland and working in the San Francisco Bay area for the summer.

"We were told and witnessed from afar your quick and unwavering support for our students and their families," Higgins told a group of first responders at a hotel two blocks away from where the balcony gave way.

Higgins and Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates shoveled dirt around a pair of strawberry tree saplings planted in honor of the victims in the corner of a downtown city park near the Library Gardens complex, the site of the accident.

Bates said the City Council on Tuesday gave final approval to more stringent construction and inspection rules for balconies and decks that were a response to the tragedy.

"This event is not going to go unnoticed. It's not going to go down as a footnote in history," Bates said. "We are going to change the way we do business in Berkeley so it never happens again."

Five Irish students, all 21



**Sabina Higgins, second from right, tears up at a tree planting ceremony alongside her husband Michael Higgins, at right, the president of Ireland, Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015, in Berkeley, Calif.**

years old, and the 22-year-old Irish-American cousin of one of them died after the balcony gave way, tossing them and another seven young people celebrating at the party 50 feet down to the street below.

A city investigation revealed that the wooden beams supporting the structure were rotted through from water damage. The Alameda County district attorney has been conducting an investigation to determine if criminal charges are warranted.

A number of other balconies or decks at risk of failing have been identified and required to undergo repairs by Jan. 14 since local officials ordered a review of all

multi-unit buildings this summer, city spokesman Matthai Chakko said Wednesday.

Higgins, who was elected to a seven-year term in 2011, is nearing the middle of an eight-day West Coast visit that already has included a stop in Seattle, a visit to Google Inc.'s headquarters and a speech on world hunger at the University of California, Berkeley. The type of evergreen tree selected for the planting ceremony was picked because it is native to both Ireland and California, Bates' office said.

The students who died in the accident were Olivia Burke, Eoghan Colligan, Niccolai Schuster, Lorcán

Miller, Niccolai Schuster, and Eimear Walsh, all from Dublin. The sixth, Ashley Donohoe, was from Northern California but had dual Irish-American citizenship. She and Burke were cousins. Donohoe's immediate family attended the ceremonies on Wednesday along with several cousins from Ireland who made the trip to honor both Donohoe and Burke. Several of the seven Irish students injured in the collapse spent weeks undergoing surgeries and recuperating in the Bay Area, and the last to return to Ireland only left the U.S. last month.

Irish Consul-General Philip Grant said a few of them

have gone back to their college studies. One, Clodagh Cogley, was paralyzed from the fall that severed her spinal cord, and another, Aoife Beary, suffered a severe head injury, Grant said.

Before the collapse, the Bay Area was the destination of choice for the destination of choice for a large share of the Irish students who come to the U.S. on summer work visas each year.

Grant said it's too soon to know if the numbers will be down next year, but that he does not expect a change. If anything, he said, "the bonds between the people of Ireland and Berkeley are even stronger." □

Associated Press

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## S.C. sheriff: School officer fired after tossing student

**MEG KINNARD**  
**Associated Press**  
**COLUMBIA, South Carolina (AP)** — A white police deputy was fired Wednesday after video showed him flipping a black teen backward out of her desk

and tossing her across a classroom, with the sheriff saying the officer did not follow proper procedures and training. Deputy Ben Fields was told of his firing late Wednesday morning, Sheriff Leon

Lott said. Fields had been a school resource officer at Spring Valley High School. The student was being disruptive and refused to leave the classroom despite being told by a teacher and administrator to do

so, Lott said, and that's when Fields was brought in Monday to remove her from the class. She again refused, and Fields told her she was under arrest, Lott said.

She continued to refuse, and at that point the video shows the deputy flipping the teen backward and then throwing her across the room. At that point, Lott said, Fields did not use proper procedure.

Scott Hayes, an attorney for the deputy, said in a statement released to local media that the officer's actions were justified and lawful. He said Fields wouldn't have any comment because of the federal investigation.

Lott said he would not release Fields' personnel file, saying only that some complaints have been filed in the past against him, none of which came from the school district.

Court records show at least three complaints, though Fields prevailed in two of those cases.

Trial is set for January in the case of an expelled student who claims Fields targeted blacks and falsely accused him of being a gang member in 2013. In another case, a federal jury sided with Fields after a black couple accused him of excessive force and battery during a noise complaint arrest in 2005. A third lawsuit, dismissed in 2009, involved a woman who accused him of battery and violating her rights during a 2006 arrest.

Calls for Fields to be fired began mounting almost immediately after the video surfaced, and the FBI began a civil rights investigation at Lott's request.



This undated photo provided by the Richland County (S.C.) Sheriff's Department shows school resource officer Senior Deputy Ben Fields, in Columbia, S.C.

Associated Press

The confrontation was captured on cellphones by students, one of whom said it all started when the girl pulled out her cellphone and refused her math teacher's attempt to take it away during class.

"She now has a cast on her arm, she has neck and back injuries. She has a Band-Aid on her forehead where she suffered rug burn on her forehead," Columbia attorney Todd Ruthford, who is representing the teen, told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Wednesday.

Lott had said Tuesday that the girl was uninjured in the confrontation but "may have had a rug burn."

The sheriff suspended Fields without pay Monday. Lott, who rushed home from an out of town conference when the news broke, said that a teacher and vice principal in the classroom at the time felt the officer acted appropriately.

## Uncle: Dead Vegas cryotherapy spa aide had ownership dream

**SALLY HO**  
**KEN RITTER**  
**Associated Press**  
**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — An employee who was found frozen and dead inside a liquid nitrogen chamber used for cryotherapy treatments at a Las Vegas spa liked working there so much that she posed for promotional photos, her uncle said. Chelsea Patricia Ake-Salvacion, 24, was passionate about the treatment that subjects users to frigid conditions for a minute or two to relieve pain and other conditions.

She planned to spend another year working at Rejuvenice Cryotherapy before opening a similar business of her own in Hawaii, her uncle, Albert Ake, said Tuesday.

"She was a good spirit and loved everyone," Ake said. "She had the true aloha spirit. Aloha is love."

But something went wrong when Ake-Salvacion went in for her own treatment last week, leaving her dead alone inside the chamber the size of a phone booth. She had texted her boyfriend that she was taking a treatment herself after the store closed, Ake said.



This undated photo provided by Albert Ake is a selfie of his niece Chelsea Patricia Ake-Salvacion.

Associated Press

She also was seen on security video locking the salon, he said.

She was found dead the next morning, Oct. 20, after a co-worker arrived and noticed Ake-Salvacion's car in the parking lot and her belongings in the business.

"When they found her, she was rock solid frozen," the uncle said in a telephone interview from his home in Reno.

What killed Ake-Salvacion hasn't been determined. But her death pointed to possible dangers in an increasingly popular but largely unregulated treatment favored by celebrities

and sports stars. Athletes who have long used ice baths to ease their aches have turned to whole body cryotherapy as a quicker way to recover after exercise or competition.

Police found nothing suspicious, and the police case was closed without a criminal investigation. The Clark County coroner said determining Ake-Salvacion's cause of death will await the results of toxicology tests in coming weeks.

Nevada Occupational Safety and Health investigators said Ake-Salvacion should not have been using the cryotherapy chamber after hours for personal use.



## Witch wins protective order against warlock in Salem court

**COLLIN BINKLEY**  
**Associated Press**

**BOSTON (AP)** — A judge granted a protective order against a warlock on Wednesday, spelling relief for the Salem witch who accused him of harassment.

The two squared off in court before a Salem District Court judge, who granted the protective order to witch priestess Lori Sforza. She had accused self-proclaimed warlock Christian Day of harassing her over the phone and on social media over the past three years.

During testimony that at times became heated, Sforza accused Day of making incessant phone calls at night and humiliating her on Facebook, The Boston Globe reported. Day's lawyer countered that the dispute stems from a onetime business partnership that fell apart years ago.

Before 2012, Day let Sforza perform psychic readings rent-free at one of his occult shops in Salem, he told The Associated Press in an interview after the hearing. Their relationship fell apart when Sforza revealed plans to start her own witchcraft



**Christian Day, right, a self-described warlock, sits with his attorney Paul R. Moraski in district court Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015, in Salem, Mass.**

**Associated Press**

shop nearby, Day said. The two are still business rivals. "This is a business dispute gone wrong. That's all it was," Day said. "They don't want me to make snide remarks on Facebook; I won't make snide remarks on Facebook."

During the hearing, Sforza reportedly told the judge that she can see into her own future, saying, "That's why I'm here today." Sforza, 75, uses the business name Lori Bruno and says she is a psychic witch who descends from a line of Italian witches. She also leads

a pagan church in Salem. Day, 45, who now lives in Louisiana, owns occult shops in Salem and New Orleans. Described on his website as the "world's best-known warlock," he organizes the Festival of the Dead in Salem, a series of Halloween events every October that culminates in a Witches' Halloween Ball. The pair made headlines in 2011 when they cast spells together to try to heal actor Charlie Sheen, who had called himself a "Vatican assassin warlock" during an interview on national television.



**Witch priestess Lori Sforza, seeking a restraining order against self-described warlock Christian Day, testifies in district court Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015, in Salem, Mass.**

**Associated Press**

The judge hearing the case said he was dismayed by the volume of late-night calls Day made to Sforza. After hearing the decision, Day, who didn't testify, denied making the calls and then stormed out of the courthouse, according to The Globe. He told reporters he would appeal

the order.

"I'm going to fight this every step of the way because it's unjust," he said. Salem, home of the 17th-century witch trials, has a tourism industry built around the occult that reaches fever pitch in October, drawing thousands of visitors. □

## Former Saudi airman files appeal of 35-year rape sentence

**KEN RITTER**  
**Associated Press**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — A former Saudi Arabian air force sergeant serving a minimum of 35 years in Nevada prison is appealing his convictions on kidnapping, rape and other charges involving a 13-year-old boy at a Las Vegas Strip hotel.

Mazen Alotaibi's defense attorneys say in Nevada Supreme Court documents posted Monday that Alotaibi didn't get a fair trial due to errors by the judge and poor representation by a trial lawyer who gambled the jury would believe the sex was consensual.

"We hate to second-guess a colleague," attorney Vincent Savarese said Wednesday of the appeal he filled with attorney Dominic Gentile. "But, as Mazen Alotaibi's appellate coun-



**In this Jan. 28, 2015 file photo, former Saudi Arabian air force sergeant Mazen Alotaibi appears in court in Las Vegas.**

**Associated Press**

sel, we have a job to do." Alotaibi's trial lawyer, Don Chairez, said he did the best he could at trial, and hopes Alotaibi wins his appeal.

"There were things we could have done different-

ly," Chairez said. "If that's grounds to have the case overturned, I hope it benefits Mazen."

Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson didn't immediately respond Wednesday to messages

about the appeal.

Savarese said Judge Stefany Miley should have told jurors they could consider a lesser felony charge of statutory sexual seduction that carries a one-to-five year sentence.

"There was a way for the jury to find him guilty without letting him out the door if they found consent and went with statutory sexual seduction," Savarese said. However, Nevada state law says a child under 16 can't consent to sex.

Alotaibi was found guilty in October 2013 of kidnapping for luring the boy to the hotel room, sexual assault for acts with the boy in a bathroom, and lewdness with a child for fondling and kissing the boy on the way to the room. The jury also found Alotaibi guilty of misdemeanor coercion.

The appeal also faults Miley for rejecting arguments that Alotaibi deserved a new trial after a witness recanted after trial.

Rashed Alshehri told the judge in September 2014 he lied during testimony about how intoxicated Alotaibi was before encountering the boy at the Circus Circus hotel on New Year's Eve 2012. The judge ruled the change in Alshehri's account wouldn't have affected the verdict.

"Testimony regarding the defendant's presumed level of intoxication is ... at best another handful of sand on an already expansive beach of evidence," the judge wrote.

Alotaibi was sentenced last January. He's now 26. With credit for time served, he'll be 57 before he's first eligible for parole. □



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# Ukraine faces years of dependence on Western aid

JAMES ELLINGWORTH

Associated Press

VELYKI PRYTSKY, Ukraine

(AP) — Looking on from her

vegetable patch at the motorcade of U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, Ukrainian villager Olha Voloshchenko says she'd seen the lady on the TVnews the night before, but "then the lights went off at our place."

The U.S. hopes agriculture in places like this dilapidated village will help rebuild Ukraine's shattered economy as it severs its centuries-old trade relations with Russia and tries to integrate with the West.

The economic reality, however, suggests that dream is a long way off. A lack of jobs often drives young people away from the rural areas that are meant to drive the agricultural renaissance. Outages are common as the electricity grid crumbles from a lack of investment and bribery is still rampant.

It is clear Ukraine will depend on U.S. and European financial support for years to come.

Pritzker's visit coincided with the U.S. announcement that it would give Ukraine another \$1 billion in loan guarantees on condition the country makes a series of reforms. That comes on top of a \$17.5 billion aid program from the International Monetary Fund.

The U.S. official was in Ukraine to help the government push through judicial and anti-corruption measures that would, hopefully, attract the investment needed to wean the country off Western aid.

In an interview with The

Associated Press, Pritzker called the U.S. administration's decision to give the loan guarantee "a vote of confidence." She said the Ukrainian government's progress on reforms over the last six to nine months was "extraordinary."

For Pritzker, her visit mixed old-fashioned commercial diplomacy — bringing a group of U.S. business executives along — and the personal. Until the late 19th century, long before the family built the Hyatt brand into a global hotel chain, the Pritzkers lived south of Kiev and took their name from Voloshchenko's village of Velyki Prytsky.

During her stay in Ukraine she would have gotten a taste of the challenges facing Ukraine, whose economy is expected to shrink by about a tenth this year.

Though the conflict in the rebel-held east has quietened down in recent months, much of the country's industrial heartland is either in the hands of Russia-backed rebel or has seen its supply chains disrupted. An anti-corruption push has yet to claim any prominent scalps and Sunday's regional elections saw the resurgence of regional oligarchs that often challenge the government in Kiev.

Meanwhile, trade with Russia, which has long been the country's biggest commercial partner, is in freefall as political relations soured over the conflict.

Goods exports to Russia in January-August this year were less than half what they were a year earlier, and replacing that lost trade will be hard. Since Sunday, there are no lon-

ger any direct flights between the two countries.

Despite a frantic schedule of trade missions from the Ukrainian government, exports to the U.S. and EU are falling too, with increased Chinese investment in agriculture a rare bright spot. Instead of restoring Russian trade to pre-conflict levels, the goal is an economy close to that of neighboring Poland, with greater European and global integration, says Finance Minister Natalie Jaresko.

"I don't think those levels of trade with Russia will ever come to be again," she says. "We are building our exports into Asia, into



U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker presents books to children in a Jewish school in the Ukrainian town of Bila Tserkva, where some of her distant relatives once lived in Ukraine, Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015.

Associated Press

Europe and into the Middle East and North Africa."

Also on the horizon is the repayment of a \$3 billion debt to Russia dating from the final days of the last pro-Russian Ukrainian president, Viktor Yanukovich. Russia has refused to write off a part of the loan, as

Ukraine's other bondholders agreed to do this year to help the country avoid default.

If Ukraine fails to pay the loan at the end of the year, Russia could try to obstruct future aid to Ukraine from the IMF, of which it is a member. □

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# Islamic State on recruitment spree in Russia

**ARSEN MOLLAYEV**  
**VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**  
**Associated Press**  
**MAKHACHKALA, Russia**  
**(AP)** — The Russian province of Dagestan, a flash-point for Islamic violence in the North Caucasus, is feeding hundreds of fighters to the Islamic State in Syria — and now some are coming back home with experience gained from the battlefield.

The departures mean that the region itself has become markedly less violent recently with fewer bombings and shootings. And the returning fighters have either landed in jail or been kept under close police surveillance. But there are long-term concerns that the presence of radical Muslims trained in IS warfare could lead to greater instability and violence.

"We can't allow them to use the experience they have just gained in Syria back home," Russian President Vladimir Putin said recently.

Eduard Urazayev, a former minister in Dagestan's provincial government, and now a political analyst, said that poverty and unemployment in the region made the IS recruiters' job easier. "If the high level of corruption and unfavorable socio-economic situation remain," Urazayev said, "it may further fuel protest sentiments and increase sympathy for the IS."

The Islamist insurgency that has swept Russia's North Caucasus after two separatist wars in Chechnya has a proclaimed goal of carving out an independent state governed by Shariah law. The Caucasus Emirate, an umbrella group comprised of rebels in several Caucasus provinces, has sworn allegiance to the IS. Alexei Malashenko, an expert on Islam with the Carnegie Endowment's Moscow office, said that officials in the Caucasus had an interest in encouraging the militants to move out of the region.

"A drop in the Islamists' activity and the reduction in the number of casual-



**In this Monday, Jan. 20, 2014 file photo, Russian special force soldiers wear masks during an anti-terrorist operation in Makhachkala, regional capital of Dagestan, Russia.**

ties in the North Caucasus in 2014-2015 were the result of militants leaving for the Middle East," Malashenko wrote in a recent article.

Officials said they were keeping close watch on those who return. Dagestan authorities have tried to register all followers of Salafism, a radical branch of Sunni Islam, taking their fingerprints and DNA samples.

Sharaputdin Arslanbekov, a police official in Makhachkala in charge of fighting extremism, said the official number of Dagestan residents who have left for Syria stands at 419, but reliable intelligence indicates that the actual figure is around 700, a significant share of an estimated 2,500 Russian citizens with IS.

Arslanbekov said IS recruiters were working actively in universities and schools, taking advantage of economic and social problems in the region. "The recruiters are quite sly and well-prepared, they know methods of ideological indoctrination and are good psychologists," he said.

Police captured five former IS members and killed three others, he said, adding that nine of those who fought alongside the IS in Syria have voluntarily surrendered after coming back home.

Gazimagomed Aligadzhiev, a native of the mountainous village of Gimry, a key center of Salafism in Dagestan, was one of those who left for Syria and spent three months at an Islamic State training camp in Syria before he decided to come back. Upon return, he joined a local militant group but eventually got sick of hiding and turned himself in to the authorities. "We only went out at night, as they could spot us in daytime. I haven't seen sunlight since December," he told Russian state television.

Even though some officials in the Caucasus may feel relief about militants fleeing to Syria, the Kremlin has voiced strong concern about the potential threat the militants could pose upon return.

Putin has described the IS threat to Russia as a key factor behind his decision to launch air strikes on militants in Syria. He said that between 5,000 and 7,000 people from Russia and other former Soviet countries are now fighting alongside Islamic State militants. Meanwhile, Russia's air campaign in Syria has drawn threats of retaliation from militants there, raising the danger of IS-driven terror in a country that has seen numerous suicide

bombings and other extremist attacks in the past. They included the 2002 hostage-taking raid on a theater in Moscow, which left 130 hostages and all 40 attackers dead, and the 2004 seizure of a school in Beslan in southern Russia, in which more than 330 people were killed and over 800 others were wounded. In 2010, twin suicide bombings on the Moscow subway killed 40 people and wounded over 120, and a 2011 suicide bombing at a Moscow airport killed 37 and injured more than 180. Alexander Bortnikov, the head of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), the main KGB successor agency, said recently that under the brunt of Russian airstrikes, some militants were trying to leave the warzone in Syria with a goal to conduct terror attacks in Russia, Europe and elsewhere. A few weeks ago, the FSB arrested a group of people, including some trained by IS in Syria, who were accused of plotting a terror attack on Moscow's public transport system. It also found a home-made bomb loaded with five kilograms of explosives.

IS has been active on social networks across Russia and other ex-Soviet nations in search of new recruits, focusing primarily on young

people.

People from Kyrgyzstan and other ex-Soviet Central Asian nations, where the majority of the population is Muslim, have been a top target for IS recruiters. Poverty and lack of jobs have pushed many to go to Russia to work as migrant laborers, and Russia's economic downturn helped make the IS recruitment effort easier.

One such recruit, Babur Israilov, a 21-year old citizen of Kyrgyzstan, went viral on the Internet last month: A video showed him weeping while climbing into a vehicle rigged with explosives, just minutes before blowing himself up in a suicide mission in Syria.

Those who knew Israilov said he had gone to Russia in search of a job, and apparently was lured into joining the IS there. Kyrgyz officials wouldn't comment on the case pending a probe.

Along with the poor and the desperate, IS nets have caught some members of the middle-class. A second-year student of the elite Moscow State University, who studied Arabic and developed an interest in Islam, left to join the IS but was detained on Turkey's border with Syria a few days later after her father raised the alarm.

Most local imams in Dagestan shun radical views, but they have found it hard to counter the appeal of radical ideas promoted by the Islamic State. Some imams who spoke against radical Islam have been killed.

Muhammad-Haji, an imam in Makhachkala, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared Islamist revenge, said many young people fell under the spell of the extremist ideas and he found it hard to persuade them to change their views.

Tanya Lokshina, the Russia program director at Human Rights Watch, said that police abuses fueled anger against the authorities, contributing to the popularity of IS among young people in the region. □

**Associated Press**





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## AU report cites cannibalism, atrocities in South Sudan

**JASON PATINKIN**  
**Associated Press**

**JUBA, South Sudan (AP)** — Investigators discovered atrocities by all sides in South Sudan's civil war, including testimony of forced cannibalism and the discovery of mass graves, according to a long-awaited report by the African Union. The report, released late Tuesday, also accused the forces loyal to President Salva Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, of recruiting an irregular tribal force before the outbreak of civil war in December 2013.

It also disputes a claim by the government that there was a coup attempt at that time by former Vice President Riek Machar, an ethnic Nuer.

The report alleged that government troops carried out organized killings of ethnic Nuer in Juba, the capital. When the violence began, Machar became a rebel leader.

Tens of thousands of people have died and over 2 million more are displaced by warfare in South Sudan, according to the United Nations, which blamed the violence and the subsequent threat of famine on the young country's feuding leaders.

The African Union investigators, led by former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, found that the



In this Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014 file photo, rebel soldiers patrol and protect civilians from the Nuer ethnic group as the civilians walk through flooded areas to reach a makeshift camp for the displaced situated in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) base in the town of Bentiu, South Sudan.

**Associated Press**

conflict began Dec. 15, 2013, when a skirmish broke out between Dinka and Nuer soldiers in the presidential guard following political tension between Kiir and Machar, his onetime deputy who had been fired the previous July.

Hundreds of Nuer men were rounded up and shot, and their mass graves were discovered, according to the report. Perpetrators — described as government forces or their allies — allegedly tortured their victims, sometimes forcing them to jump into bonfires or eat

human flesh, witnesses told investigators.

The killings were “an organized military operation that could not have been successful without concerted efforts from various actors in the military and government circles,” the report said. “Roadblocks or checkpoints were established all around Juba and house-to-house searches were undertaken by security forces. During this operation male Nuer were targeted, identified, killed on the spot or gathered in one place and killed.”

The investigators found

“evidence that some of the people who had been gathered were compelled to eat human flesh, while others were forced to drink human blood belonging to a victim who had been slaughtered and his blood collected on a plate,” it said.

One witness said “she saw SPLA (South Sudan army) soldiers burning dead bodies and compelling Nuer women to eat burnt flesh of burnt victims,” the report added.

In addition to testimony about forced cannibalism, the report said witnesses

described how government troops took part in killings, abductions, disappearances, rapes, beatings and stealing.

The report said that Minister of Defense Kuol Manyang Juuk described a shadowy group called “Rescue the President” that killed people in Juba on Dec. 15-18 and “was even more powerful than organized forces.”

The group was made up of Dinka soldiers who had been mobilized following a 2012 border crisis with northern neighbor Sudan. Some of these soldiers were moved south to Kiir's private farm near Juba in 2013 and later participated in the killings, the report said, citing interviews with informants.

Amid the Juba killings, Machar fled the capital and mobilized an insurgency which committed revenge attacks against the Dinka, sparking a cycle of violence in the towns of Bor, Malakal, and Bentiu, which also included rapes and killings in churches and hospitals, according to the report.

Those revenge attacks occurred so quickly they probably were also coordinated, it added.

Kiir and Machar signed a peace agreement in August but fighting continues. □



# Aruba TODAY

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**Bidhya Devi Bhandari of the Communist Party of Nepal Unified Marxist-Leninist waves her hand after she was elected as Nepal's new president in Kathmandu, Nepal, Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015.**

Associated Press

## Nepal's parliament elects nation's first female president

**BINAJ GURUBACHARYA**

Associated Press

**KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)** — Nepalese lawmakers elected a longtime women's rights campaigner to become the country's first female president Wednesday, as the Himalayan nation pushes for more gender equality in politics and work life.

Bidhya Devi Bhandari, the 54-year-old deputy leader of Nepal's Communist Party of Nepal Unified Marxist-Leninist, had lobbied actively for the new constitution to require that either the president or vice president be a woman. Nepal has been trying to shift from a traditionally male-dominated society, where women are mostly limited to working at homes or on farms, to one in which women have equal access to opportunities and legal rights.

Lawmakers cheered as Bhandari's name was announced as the new president. An ally and party colleague of Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli, Bhandari had been considered the favorite for the largely ceremonial job.

Bhandari said her election — by a vote of 327-214 against Congress party leader Kul Bahadur Gurung — marked a first step toward assuring the new constitutional guarantees of equality are fulfilled. The constitution, adopted last month, also requires that one-third of the country's lawmakers be women, and that women be included in all government committees.

And last week, Onsari Gharti was elected as the country's first female Parliament speaker.

Bhandari has been a leading political figure since 1993 when her late husband, Communist party Madan Bhandari, was killed in a car accident.

She led demonstrations against the former King Gyanendra in 2006, helping drive the country toward ending his authoritarian rule and restoring democracy.

Bhandari is Nepal's second president since then. She replaces President Ram Baran Yadav, who was elected in 2008 for a two-year term that was extended when efforts to draft a new constitution stalled over seven years. □

## Man arrested in notorious Australian double murder



**Police Detective Inspector Jason Dickinson holds up a photo of Karlie Jade Pearce-Stevenson and her daughter Khandalyce Kiara Pearce, during a press conference in Sydney, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015.**

Associated Press

**SYDNEY (AP)** — A man was arrested for the murder of a woman whose skeletal remains were found in an Australian forest 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) from where her daughter's body was discovered dumped in a suitcase, police said Thursday.

The arrest Wednesday came a week after police identified the remains of Karlie Jade Pearce-Stevenson, 20, and her 2-year-old daughter Khandalyce Pearce. The breakthrough came seven years after police say the pair were murdered at different times and in different locations.

The 41-year-old suspect was arrested at the Cessnock Police Station, 150 kilometers (95 miles) north of Sydney, and would appear in nearby Maitland Local Court on Thursday charged with the mother's murder, a police statement said on Thursday.

Police said the investigation into her daughter's murder was continuing.

New South Wales Police Detective Superintendent Mick Willing said police allege Pearce-Stevenson was murdered on Dec. 14 or 15, 2008.

Her daughter was murdered sometime later, he said.

Police allege several people were involved in the double murder, the theft of the mother's identity and related frauds over several years.

Fraudsters used the mother's cell phone for three years after her death to make family and friends believe she was still alive, police said. They convinced Pearce-Stevenson's mother to deposit money into the dead woman's bank account, which continued to receive government benefits, South Australia Police Detective Superintendent Des Bray said on Tuesday.

Pearce-Stevenson's credit card was used in several cities, with the final transaction in March 2012.

Her bones were spotted by bicycle riders in 2010 in the Belanglo State Forest, about 150 kilometers (90 miles) south of Sydney. The forest is infamous for being a dumping ground for victims of Australia's most notorious serial killer, Ivan Milat, who was convicted in 1996 of murdering seven backpackers. Police sus-

pect Pearce-Stevenson's killer wanted her to appear to be a Milat victim.

Khandalyce's body was discovered in July after a driver spotted the suitcase dumped on the side of a highway near the small South Australia town of Wynarka. Police sifted through dozens of missing persons profiles to try to figure out who the remains belonged to, even receiving a call from British police investigating the disappearance of Madeleine McCann, who vanished during a 2007 family vacation in Portugal.

The identities of both bodies had stumped police in two states until they received a tip on a crime prevention hotline three weeks ago. The caller suggested the girl in the suitcase might be Khandalyce Pearce, who left with her single mother from their Outback home town of Alice Springs in 2008 to go traveling.

DNA tests confirmed the remains were indeed Khandalyce's. Police then used blood samples from the medical records of Pearce-Stevenson to identify her remains. □

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At Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino

## Red Carpet Night for Aruba Toastmasters Club



**Palm Beach** – The Aruba chapter of the popular Toastmasters Club convened for an Educational Meeting in the Ruby Room at Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, just recently. The organization, determined to turn its members into confident public-speakers and strong leader, provides a supportive learn-by-doing environment, which allows members to achieve their goals at their own pace. The much-enjoyed evening at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino was themed Red Carpet Night, and served to celebrate Toastmasters Inter-

national's 91st anniversary. Known as Toastmasters' Day, on October 22nd, more than 332,000 members around the globe convene for educational opportunities, improving their speaking and leadership skills by attending one of the 15,400 clubs in 135 countries that make up the global network of meeting locations.

Aruba Toastmasters Club meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, at Scol Di Arte in San Nicolas from 7pm to 9pm, and it welcomes everyone as guest, with an open invitation to also become a member and change their life, having acquired important expertise, true to Toastmasters International mission to empower individuals to become more effective communicators and leaders. □





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## Hadicurari is proud to present Ronald van Hasenbroek as its new Executive Chef

Exciting vibes are sweeping through Hadicurari Restaurant as experienced top chef Ronald vanHasenbroek takes the helm in the kitchen. His goal: raising the level and improving the various parts that make a kitchen great. "I want Hadicurari to stand out for its quality, presentation and creativity," says Ronald, who is still bowled over by the amazing restaurant view of the azure ocean, the fishing boats and the white beach, which is shimmering in sunshine. Hadicurari, located between the Marriott Surf Club and MooMba Beach on the hi-rise strip, probably has one of the best locations on the island; it is wildly popular with guests of the Ritz Carlton and the Marriott, but locals also know where to find it. The restaurant is run by general manager Jeroen Kuling.

Ronald van Hasenbroek



has a wealth of experience behind him: he is a multiple gold medal winner of the Aruba National Culinary Team, has spent 9 years at Chez Mathilde Restaurant, 9 years at Divi Resorts and 4 years as a consultant, 2 of which for the Aruba Wine And Dine (AWD) family, of which Hadicurari and Nos Clubhuis, located right on top of Hadicurari, form part. The quest for culinary excellence runs in his blood



and he tries to instill this in his staff. The new executive chef is planning to raise the culinary level on the menus. Working with fresh fish caught by local fisherman is a pleasure for all.

Lovely Hadicurari has an upstairs neighbor: Nos Clubhuis, where the local fishermen shoot the breeze, have their morning coffee or afternoon glass of

beer. Ronald will also take the kitchen of Nos Clubhuis under his wings as his second project, but this will be at a later stage. It is a relaxed place, where one can eat a hamburger, the catch of the day or a shrimp basket and down a few cocktails or beers. Open from 7 am until 10 pm it is also a wonderful place for private parties, get-togethers and weddings: "We're already getting quite a few bookings for the coming months," tells Jeroen Kuling proudly. Besides the stunning view, Nos Clubhuis has something really special to offer as well: eating lionfish.

"Lionfish can only be caught by spearfishing by divers – the caught fish are put into a special holding bag, because their spines are poisonous. When cleaned and prepared, the fish is delicious. I love eating it as a ceviche or

broiled," says Jeroen. Lionfish are considered a threat to the environment as they have no natural enemies; it is therefore of great importance that they are caught. Volunteer divers catch the lionfish on Aruba.

Talking about the upcoming holiday season, chef Ronald is planning a 5-course Christmas dinner, which can also be split up as separate options. Reservations for groups of 6 or more people are made with a credit card back-up; on December 31 guests are welcome on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"I am looking forward to working at Hadicurari," Ronald sums up. "This challenge is right up my street." Hadicurari with Jeroen and Ronald and a terrific staff are happy to welcome you once again and to make your dining experience unforgettable. □



Are you ready to try LIONFISH for the First time?

## Increasing awareness about Aruba's lionfish invasion



Hadicurari - Organized Lionfish Derbies will spear up to approximately 150 kilos of the tasty fish for partygoers to sample at the Save the Reef Party held at Nos Clubhuis, upstairs from Hadicurari Restaurant on November 29th from 7 to 10pm.

Hosted by the ARUBA MARINE PARK FOUNDATION (AMPF) and Aruba Wine and Dine, the sunset happy hour event promises to feed its guests with an assortment of Lionfish tastings donated from Aruba's volunteer Lionfish Hunters. To create more excitement for the event a lovely wine tasting will be sponsored courtesy of Romar Trading. Learn more about the predatory Lionfish from Marine Biologist Byron Boekhoudt and volunteer Lionfish hunters, while sampling creative ways to enjoy Lionfish. Artistic chefs will team up and share their recipes to teach you to enjoy this tasty, firm white fish. With the highest concentration of heart-healthy Omega-3 fatty acids and its health benefits healthier



than red snapper, grouper, mahi mahi and wahoo, the Lionfish is also very low in mercury and lead. Besides being healthy and tasty, there is a more important reason for making Lionfish your dinner special. There are just way too many of them in our waters. Because our local fish do not recognize their danger, our fish swim towards the pretty colorful Lionfish and get gobbled up. Lionfish lure our Groupers and Red Snapper, eat our Lobster and deplete our reefs by swallowing anything



that gets in their path. Worse Lionfish have no known ocean predators and repopulate quickly. Because the female Lionfish produces 2 million eggs each year, this keeps Aruba's volunteer Lionfish Hunters spearing each beautiful spiny men-

ace, one by one.

If you're ready to try Lionfish for the first time, request the tasty fish at your favorite Seafood Restaurants in Aruba.

Tickets for the Save the Reef Lionfish Tasting /Wine Tasting Event on Sunday, Nov 29 can be purchased at

the Jolly Pirates Gift Shop.

The Eat them To Beat them Lionfish Sponsors include the Aruba Marine Park Foundation, Volunteer Lionfish Hunters, Romar Trading, Jolly Pirates, Aruba Wine and Dine, and D'Art. Please call 592 7858 for more Party Information. □



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## Chatting with dr. Oswald Wever about our genetic structure at the YMCA in San Nicolas



In 1830 the president of the United States of America, Andrew Jackson, enacted 'The Indian Removal Act' which forced the Cherokee Indians to leave their homeland and relocate into unchartered territories in the West coast of this continent. 13,000 Cherokees were removed to Oklahoma in 1839. One thousand of them were African slaves who already had been set free. Ten thousand of the deported Indians and African slaves survived

the trail and continued living in peace in their new territory.

Nowadays there are Cherokees throughout the United States: from Eastern Oklahoma to Western North Carolina. However, little is known about a minority of black Indians who still share a common past with Native Americans (Documentary: 'Trail of Tears'). They have mixed by marriage and they both still share the Cherokee tradition. Today genetic studies were able to identify their ethnic geographic descendant through their maternal lineage.

Dr. Oswald Wever has dedicated eight years of mitochondrialDNA studies in order to identify the genetic structure of the Aruban population. His main concern was that historians in the past have committed distortion of the facts by declaring 'that the Indian genes had been extinguished in the Aruban population'. Dr. Wever considered it his mission to correct this misinterpretation most exactly as possible. The additional value of his research is the evidence based scientific fact that our Aruban population is trihybrid: Indian, African and Caucasian European. However genetic science ascertains that no matter the influence of migration in any part of the world the genetic descendant of the native will stay dominant. The result of his investigation indicated in 2011 that 54 % of the Aruban population still carried Indian genes.

The quickly developing branch of DNA studies gives us the opportunity to search our roots. Biological science learns that during procreation characteristics are being carried over to the next generation by both mother and father. DNA is present in all our cells. MitochondriaDNA is present only in mitochondria and this substantial is being found only in the

maternal ova and not in paternal sperm cells. Y-chromosome in paternal sperms measures genetic input, only in men. Mitochondria DNA studies on the contrary measure exclusively maternal genetic heritage both in women and men. This means that the mother's genes will determine the ethnic geographic descendant of any population: Indian, African, European or Asiatic.

During his presentation dr. Wever will focus on the so called haplogroups. He will explain why a person can be part of just one haplogroup. This can never change! Your nationality has nothing to do with your ethnic geographic structure. You can change your passport but you will always be an Indian, an African, a Caucasian European or an Asiatic.

MitochondriaDNA tests are being realized in laboratories. Dr. Oswald Wever has performed his research in cooperation with two prominent institutes 'Universidad de Puerto Rico' and 'Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Cientificas' (Caracas, Venezuela).

On sunday the first of november Fundacion Herencia Historico di Aruba in cooperation with UNOCA is honouring you with an interesting presentation about the structure of the Aruban population. Dr. Wever is looking forward to meet you and will be pleased to listen to your comments and to answer your questions.

The presentation will take place at the YMCA in San Nicolas from 10:15 till 12 noon and will be presented in the English language. Free entrance. Enjoy a snack and refreshment on the house.

"Never believe what the mirror shows you. Look for your roots, to know your destiny".

Fundacion Herencia Historico di Aruba  
Lucia Kelly – president  
587 4759.□

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**Wednesday**  
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In front of one of the restaurants, at 8:00 PM

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In this Sept. 14, 2007, file photo, United States' Abby Wambach celebrates after scoring on a penalty kick against Sweden during their Group B match of the 2007 FIFA Women's World Cup soccer tournament at Chengdu Sports Center Stadium in Chengdu, China.  
Associated Press

## Wambach didn't want retirement to overshadow victory tour

ANNE M. PETERSON  
AP Sports Writer

When the final whistle blew on the Women's World Cup this summer, Abby Wambach was nearly convinced that it was her final championship.

The game's most prolific international scorer — among women and men — needed time to think, though. She didn't make it official until after a visit to the White House with the cup-champion U.S. national team Tuesday. She is retiring from the game.

"I was 95 percent certain," she said Wednesday, referring to her thoughts following the World Cup title match. "But I also know myself well enough to know that I wanted to make sure it wasn't an impulsive choice and that I was sure it was what I wanted and it would be best not just for me personally but also for this team."

The response was typical of Wambach, who spent her 15-year career always pushing for more.

Continued on Page 18

# ROYAL ROUT



## Royals pound Mets to take 2-0 Series lead

Kansas City Royals pitcher Johnny Cueto (47) celebrates the end of the top of the eighth inning of Game 2 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the New York Mets Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015, in Kansas City, Mo.  
Associated Press  
Page 19



## Wambach

Continued from Page 17

The 2012 FIFA Player of the Year has 184 goals in 252 international matches. Now 35, Wambach had often said she wanted to cap her career with soccer's premier championship, the one title she didn't have. She reached the goal when the United States delivered a 5-2 victory over Japan in the World Cup final.

She will play the final four matches of the national team's 10-game victory tour before stepping down. Her final match will be Dec. 16 against China in New Orleans.

"I've been hesitant to release this because I don't want the victory tour to turn into a farewell tour for Abby," she said.

The U.S. team crisscrossed Canada during the month-long World Cup tournament before dominating Japan in the title game



In this July 13, 2011, file photo, United States' Abby Wambach celebrates scoring her side's second goal during a semifinal match against France at the Women's Soccer World Cup in Moenchengladbach, Germany.

Associated Press

at Vancouver's BC Place. Carli Lloyd was named the MVP after scoring three goals in the span of 16 minutes in the final match.

Wambach saw her role with the team change during the tournament. She came in off the bench in several matches, sacrificing a starting role for the good of the team.

"We're all competitors and we all want to play," she said. "As my career has evolved and gone on, I have seen people come on the team that are fantastic players. And it wasn't just about me anymore."

Wambach appeared in four World Cups with the national team. She also has a pair of Olympic

gold medals from the 2004 Games in Athens and the 2012 Games in London. She was not on the U.S. team that won gold at the Beijing Games because of a broken leg.

Perhaps one of her most famous goals came in the quarterfinals of the 2011 World Cup in Germany, when she scored the equalizer against Brazil in the 122nd minute.

She finishes as the all-time leading U.S. scorer in both Olympic and World Cup games. She played 25 total World Cup matches with 14 goals, and 10 Olympic matches with nine goals.

She joins Mia Hamm (2001, 2002) as the only Americans to win FIFA's player of the year honors.

At 5-foot-11 (1.8-meters), the Rochester, New York, native also brought her own imposing athleticism to the women's game. Of her goals, 77 were off headers.

But more than her numbers, Wambach was serious about her responsibility

to grow the women's game and fight for equal rights.

Last year, she led a group of the world's top women players in protesting FIFA's decision to play the 2015 Women's World Cup on artificial turf, which is considered by many players to be inferior to grass. The players claimed that it was gender discrimination because their male counterparts have never played a World Cup on an artificial surface.

In the end, the tournament went on as planned, but Wambach had made her point.

Wambach made it clear Wednesday that she is retiring from international and club play. The NWSL's Seattle Reign held her rights this past season, but she did not play a match while she prepared for the World Cup.

As for the future, Wambach is going to take some time after the victory to just relax. She has no concrete plan yet for what's next. □

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**Driftwood Restaurant.** This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.







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## Cueto's 2-hitter sends Royals over Mets for 2-0 Series lead

RONALD BLUM

AP Baseball Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) --

Johnny Cueto smothered the New York Mets with another big October outing. And the pesky Kansas City Royals kept fouling off Jacob deGrom's best pitches, wearing him down with persistence and prowess. Cueto never faltered. And as deGrom wore down, the Royals pounced.

Eric Hosmer hit a tiebreaking, two-run single with two outs in a four-run fifth inning that included 14 foul balls, and the Royals rallied to beat the Mets 7-1 Wednesday night and take a 2-0 World Series lead.

Nineteen hours after Hosmer's sacrifice fly won a 14-inning thriller, Cueto pitched a two-hitter, varying his delivery with occasional quick pitches and keeping the Mets off balance. An excited crowd stood on its feet for long stretches on the rainy night. Some fans wore wigs resembling Cueto's long, dark dreadlocks - including the Royals' mascot, Slugerrr. With Kansas City two wins from its first title since 1985, the teams take Thursday off. New York's Citi Field hosts its first Series game Friday, when rookie Noah Syndergaard starts for the Mets and Yorlano Ventura for the Royals. Forty-one of the 51 teams to take 2-0 leads in best-of-seven World Series have gone on to win the title, including nine straight since Atlanta stumbled against the New York Yankees in 1996.

Kansas City had the best contact hitters in the major leagues this season, missing on just 19.7 percent of its swings, according to STATS. The Dodgers and Cubs swung and missed 58 times in their first three post-



Kansas City Royals' Alcides Escobar, left, scores past New York Mets catcher Travis d'Arnaud on a single by Eric Hosmer during the fifth inning of Game 2 of the Major League Baseball World Series Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

season outings, but he got just three swings and misses against the Royals - his career low. Of his 94 pitches, 23 were fouled off by the Royals.

Cueto has struggled on the road, where opposing fans taunt him by repeating his name in a sing-song voice. But since the Royals acquired the free-agent-to-be from Cincinnati in July, he's been Johnny on the spot at Kauffman Stadium. He pitched two-hit ball over eight innings to win Game 5 of the Division Series against Houston, and Kansas City lined up its Series rotation to have Cueto starting Games 2 and 6 at

home.

Cueto struck out four and walked three. Both hits off him were soft singles by Lucas Duda, an infield hit to third that took advantage of the shift in the second inning and an opposite-field RBI single to left in the fourth. Cueto let loose some emotion at the end of the eighth inning, when Alcides Escobar made a nifty play to retire Juan Lagares for the final out. As Escobar sprinted past him, Cueto exchanged a flamboyant high five with the shortstop. After Yoenis Cespedes flied to center for the final out, Cueto pointed to the sky and was congratulated

by catcher Salvador Perez. Cueto pitched the first Series complete game by an AL pitcher since Minnesota's Jack Morris won Game 7 against Atlanta in 1991. DeGrom, 3-0 in the post-season coming in, allowed four runs, six hits and three walks over five innings in a hairy matchup of pitchers with contrasting long locks. Pitching with seven days' rest, deGrom held Kansas City to one hit through four innings but got in trouble in the fifth, when he walked Alex Gordon on a 3-2 slider leading off. Alex Rios followed with a single and Escobar fouled off a pair of bunt attempts

before driving and 0-2 slider up the middle for a tying single.

Ben Zobrist's grounder advanced the runners, and Lorenzo Cain fouled off four pitches before a fly-out to short center. Hosmer singled off the mound into center field for a 3-1 lead, and Kendrys Morales' singled in another run.

Gordon added an RBI double in the eighth off Jon Niese, a ball off the glove of shortstop Wilmer Flores. Paulo Orlando, the first Brazil-born player to appear in a Series, followed with a sacrifice fly against Addison Reed, and Escobar tripled in a run. □



## NHL Capsules

# Canucks end Canadiens record streak at 9 wins

**The Associated Press**

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP)** — Jared McCann scored twice and Ryan Miller made 25 saves as the Vancouver Canucks beat Montreal 5-1 on Tuesday night to hand the Canadiens their first loss of the season.

Montreal (9-1-0) had set an NHL record with nine straight regulation wins to start the year, and was one victory from tying the best start in league history set by the 1993-94 Toronto Maple Leafs and the 2006-07 Buffalo Sabres.

Luca Sbisa, Radim Vrbata and Derek Dorsett had the other goals for the Canucks (4-2-3), while Brandon Prust added two assists as Vancouver snapped a four-game losing streak and won for the first time on home ice in six tries this season.

Torrey Mitchell replied for the Canadiens, while Carey Price stopped 23 shots.

### STARS 4, DUCKS 3

**DALLAS (AP)** — Antoine Roussel scored with 1:28 to play, completing Dallas' comeback from a three-goal deficit.

Patrick Sharp, Cody Eakin and John Klingberg scored in the second period for Dallas, which trailed 3-0 after one. Antti Niemi had 17 saves to help the Stars improve to 7-2.

Anaheim, which has lost eight of its first nine games (1-6-2), entered with just six goals this season.

Mike Santorelli, Shawn Horcoff and Carl Hagelin scored for the Ducks in the final 5:16 of the first period. Frederick Andersen finished with 30 saves, including 15 in the third period.

### BLUES 2, LIGHTNING 0

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Jake Allen stopped 26 shots for his sixth career shutout, leading St. Louis to the win.

Scott Gomez and Troy Brouwer scored as the Blues beat the Lightning for the fourth straight time, and sixth in the last seven meetings.

Ben Bishop, who was team-



**Anaheim Ducks right wing Chris Wagner (62) knocks Dallas Stars' Jamie Oleksiak into the team bench as Vernon Fiddler (38), Jordie Benn (24), John Klingberg (3) react in the third period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015, in Dallas. The Stars won 4-3.**

**Associated Press**

mates with Allen on Peoria of the AHL for two seasons, had 22 saves for the Lightning.

Gomez gave the Blues the lead when he tipped in a long shot by rookie defenseman Colton Parayko at 15:59 of the first. It was Gomez's first goal with the Blues and No. 181 for his career.

Brouwer added an empty-net goal with 41 seconds remaining.

### KINGS 4, JETS 1

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba (AP)** — Milan Lucic snapped a tie with his second goal of the season at 15:19 of the third, and the Kings earned their sixth straight victory.

Tyler Toffoli looked as if he was going to shoot before sending the puck across the front of the net and Lucic was credited with redirecting it past Ondrej Pavelec. Toffoli added an empty-net goal at 19:06, and Trevor Lewis scored with 27 seconds left.

Jonathan Quick, who has won his last five games, made 24 saves for the Kings. Pavelec stopped shots.

Winnipeg forward Nikolaj Ehlers and Los Angeles defenseman Jake Muzzin

scored in the second.

### BLUE JACKETS 3, DEVILS 1

**NEWARK, N.J. (AP)** — Boone Jenner and Cam Atkinson scored 35 seconds apart in the third period, and Columbus stopped New Jersey's four-game win streak. Scott Hartnell added an unassisted goal later in the period as the Blue Jackets won their second straight game under new coach John Tortorella despite having only 14 shots. Sergei Bobrovsky made 23 saves.

Bobrovsky lost his bid for a shutout with 2:28 to play when Kyle Palmieri scored on a power-play rebound. The four-game winning streak matched the Devils' longest of last season.

### WILD 4, OILERS 3

**ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)** — Charlie Coyle scored for Minnesota midway through the third period, 43 seconds after Ryan Suter's second goal of the game thwarted Edmonton's rally.

Darnell Nurse scored his first NHL goal soon after the second intermission, giving the Oilers the lead following a 2-0 deficit in the first period, but the Wild roared back against goalie Cam Talbot.

Suter knocked in a loose

puck from the crease. Then Coyle crashed the net and tapped in the setup from Thomas Vanek, who had two assists and has at least one point in four straight games.

Taylor Hall had a goal and an assist for the Oilers, who fell to 3-7 under new coach Todd McLellan with 18-year-old Connor McDavid now headlining a lineup with four of the last six players taken with the first overall pick in the draft.

### PANTHERS 4, AVALANCHE 1

**SUNRISE, Fla. (AP)** — Vincent Trocheck had two goals and an assist for Florida, and Roberto Luongo passed Grant Fuhr for sole possession of ninth on the wins list with No. 404 for his career.

Brian Campbell added a goal and two assists and Reilly Smith also had a goal and an assist. Luongo made 31 saves in the Panthers' second straight victory. Colorado has dropped four in a row. Gabriel Landeskog scored, and Reto Berra stopped 24 shots.

Trocheck's second power-play goal at 2:56 of the third extended the Panthers' lead to 2-0.

### SABRES 4, FLYERS 3, OT

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Zemgus Girgensons scored on a breakaway with 2:31 left in overtime, lifting the Sabres to the victory.

Jake McCabe, Tyler Ennis and Jamie McGinn scored for Buffalo, which snapped a two-game skid while winning for the first time on the road in its third try.

Brayden Schenn had two goals and Chris VandeVelde also scored for Philadelphia.

After the Flyers turned it over in their end, Carlo Colaiacovo sent a long pass to a wide-open Girgensons, who beat Steve Mason.

### HURRICANES 3, RED WINGS 1

**DETROIT (AP)** — Victor Rask and Ron Hainsey scored to lead Carolina to the victory.

Eric Staal added an empty-net goal with 30 seconds left, and Cam Ward stopped 24 shots for the Hurricanes.

Carolina is 2-1 against Detroit this season, with both wins coming on the road, but just 1-5 against the rest of the league.

Jakub Kindl scored for Detroit, and Petr Mrazek stopped 18 shots.

Hainsey's slap shot beating a screened Mrazek for the tiebreaking score at 4:36 of the third.

### BRUINS 6, COYOTES 0

**BOSTON (AP)** — Tuukka Rask made 24 saves for his 27th career shutout, David Krejci scored two goals and Boston got its first home win of the season.

Jimmy Hayes, Joe Morrow, Brett Connolly and Brad Marchand also scored for the Bruins, who had lost their first four home games (0-3-1). Hayes, Loui Eriksson and Matt Beleskey each had two assists.

Mike Smith stopped 21 shots for the Coyotes, who played their fifth road game in eight days, finishing their trip at 2-2-1.

The Bruins also beat the Coyotes 5-3 in Arizona on Oct. 17. □



## NBA Capsules

# Curry starts new season with a bang, Warriors beat Pelicans

**The Associated Press**  
**OAKLAND, California (AP)** — NBA MVP Stephen Curry showed in a hurry he hasn't lost a step or his swagger, scoring 40 points to lead the Golden State Warriors to a 111-95 victory over the New Orleans Pelicans on Tuesday night to open their title defense.

Curry put on a familiar shooting clinic from all over the court, knocking down seven of his first nine shots with four 3-pointers for 24 first-quarter points. He finished 14 for 26 with seven assists and six rebounds in a rematch of the first round of the playoffs that Golden State swept 4-0. It was his 10th career 40-point game. Curry and the Warriors raised the championship banner and received their rings in an elaborate pre-game ceremony featuring glitz, glow sticks and fire. Coach Steve Kerr attended, then left for the locker room to rest his surgically repaired back as interim Luke Walton coached the team.

Anthony Davis, who averaged 29.5 points and 12.5 rebounds in two games against Golden State last season, shot 4 for 20 and scored 10 of his 18 points on free throws.

**BULLS 97, CAVALIERS 95**  
**CHICAGO (AP)** — Nikola Mirotic scored 19 points and Derrick Rose added 18 to lead Chicago to a season-opening victory over LeBron James and Cleveland with President Barack Obama watching. Pau Gasol blocked a potential tying layup by James in the closing sec-



Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, left, lays up a shot in front of New Orleans Pelicans' Kendrick Perkins (5) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

onds. Jimmy Butler then broke up an inbounds pass intended for James as time expired.

The president sat courtside for most of the game as his beloved Bulls knocked off the defending Eastern Conference champions and gave coach Fred Hoiberg a narrow win in his first game.

James scored 25 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for Cleveland, but the Cavaliers came up short against

the team they knocked out in the conference semifinals last season.

**PISTONS 106, HAWKS 94**

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 21 points to lead all five Detroit starters in double figures, carrying the Pistons to a victory over Atlanta and ruining the opener of the team with the best record in the Eastern Conference last season.

The Pistons, who haven't had a winning season

since 2008 and finished 28 games behind the Hawks a year ago, began to pull away just before halftime. They led by double figures through most of the final two quarters and held on despite missing 20 of their last 22 shots from the field. Andre Drummond had 19 rebounds and 18 points for the Pistons. Marcus Morris also had a double-dou-

ble with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Ersan Ilyasova chipped in with 16 points and Reggie Jackson added 15. Dennis Schroder led the Hawks with 20 points. Paul Millsap had 19 and Jeff Teague 18, but new starter Kent Bazemore — who stepped in at small forward after DeMarre Carroll left in free agency — was held scoreless. □

## Warriors' Andrew Bogut sustains concussion in season-opening win

**OAKLAND, California (AP)** — Golden State Warriors center Andrew Bogut has a concussion after taking an arm to the head in Tuesday night's season-opening win against New Orleans.

The Australian had already been wearing a face mask for a broken nose when he sustained a cut above

his right eye that required stitches. He left the defending NBA champions' 111-95 win at the 7:07 mark of the third quarter and didn't return.

The team says he was evaluated after the game and again Wednesday morning. He won't return to the

court until he is symptom-free and once he passes the NBA concussion protocol.

He was productive when on the floor against the Pelicans. Bogut made all six of his field-goal attempts for 12 points to go with five rebounds and five assists in nearly 19 minutes. □

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**TYE SHERIDAN | LOGAN MILLER**  
**SCOUTS GUIDE TO THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE**  
MON 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30  
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SUN & HOL 3:00 | 5:10 | 7:20 | 9:30

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MON-THURS 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25  
FRI 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25 | 11:45  
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SUN & HOL 2:25 | 4:45 | 7:05 | 9:25

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FRI 5:20 | 7:30 | 9:40 | 11:50  
SAT 3:10 | 5:20 | 7:30 | 9:40 | 11:50  
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SAT 1:50 | 4:10 | 6:25  
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**LEVI MILLER | HUGH JACKMAN**  
**PAN**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 4:30 | 7:00  
FRI 4:30 | 7:00  
SAT 2:05 | 4:30 | 7:00  
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**ADAM SANDLER | ANDY SAMBERG**  
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WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 4:30 | 6:35 | 8:40  
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SUN & HOL 2:25 | 4:30 | 6:35 | 8:40

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**SICARIO**  
MON-THURS 9:25  
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## Lions aim to end losing ways in London after week of changes

**SHAWN POGATCHNIK**

**Associated Press**

**WATFORD, England (AP) —**

First a new offensive coordinator, now a new continent.

This week is full of changes for the struggling Detroit Lions, one of the season's biggest disappointments.

The Lions (1-6) opened the Jim Bob Cooter era on offense Wednesday on new turf, four days ahead of their game against the Kansas City Chiefs (2-5) at Wembley Stadium.

Players said they weren't shocked by Monday's firing of former OC Joe Lombardi and two offensive line coaches following Detroit's poor start to the NFL season. All said they expected immediate improvement with the promotion of 31-year-old Cooter, a protege of coach Jim Caldwell who spent the past two years as quarterback Matthew Stafford's position coach.

"He's been great," said Stafford, who noted that many offensive players outside the quarterbacks room might never have heard Cooter talk before this week. "But the more he starts talking football, you understand his intelligence and his understanding of the game. That garners respect from guys."

While many expect Cooter to unleash the long ball to wide receivers Calvin Johnson and Golden Tate, the ground attack has been the Lions' weakest link, dead last in the NFL with a



**Detroit Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford, left, takes part in a training session as wide receiver Calvin Johnson stands in the background, right, at the Grove Hotel in Chandler's Cross, England, Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015.**

mere 68 yards a game. The Lions' inability to run has left Stafford under too much pressure, including in last Sunday's 28-19 loss to the Minnesota Vikings, when Stafford was sacked seven times. Starting running back Joique Bell returned from injury, but ran just three times for 21 yards.

"I had Jim (Bob Cooter) in my rookie year with the Colts with Coach Caldwell. He's a brilliant guy and he knows football. He can connect with the players and we're going to enjoy playing for him," Bell said. Caldwell said switching coordinators in midseason was hardly ideal, but he pointed to his own 2012 history with the Baltimore

Ravens, when he was promoted to the position midway through the team's Super Bowl run. And he said Cooter's intelligence and detailed understanding with Stafford was making the sudden switch smooth. Caldwell said the players "know him, he's worked with them, he certainly has a great grasp of all the things that we need to get done. So it's not like someone coming from a different location where you have to totally get a feel for their personality. I think they understand how bright he is and his knowledge and grasp of offensive football as well."

Some players cited Cooter's relative youth as a plus.

He's the second-youngest offensive coordinator in the league next to Washington's Sean McVay — and younger than five players on the Lions roster.

"He's a younger guy and definitely has a lot of fire in him," said Johnson, who called Lombardi's firing "an unfortunate business."

Second-year tight end Eric Ebron said Cooter was an ideal figure to restructure Detroit's passing attack because "he knows what Matt likes to do. That's really how the offense works: You get the quarterback what he wants. He's going to feed off Matt."

When the NFL scheduled the Lions and Chiefs as the last of this year's trio of

London games, it looked like a matchup of playoff contenders. But the Chiefs have lost star running back Jamaal Charles to a season-ending knee injury, and the Lions — pegged by many to challenge the Green Bay Packers for the NFC North crown — find themselves sharing the league's worst record with the Ravens.

Few said they could see the collapse coming after a 2014 season that ended 11-5 and a bitterly disputed first-round playoff loss at Dallas.

"The NFL is a crazy league. A lot of things look good on paper, but until you get out there and start playing, it's a lot of shocks, a lot of surprises," said defensive end Jason Jones. "Right now we're in a tough spot, but all that we can do is look forward and try to get a win Sunday."

The Lions are returning to the scene of their greatest comeback last season. They trailed the Atlanta Falcons by three touchdowns at the half but won 22-21 with a last-second field goal.

"We've shown we can play inspired ball in London and we're hoping for that again," said cornerback Rashean Mathis, who had a big interception return at Wembley last year. "But we'd rather get on top of the Chiefs early. No more dramatic comebacks. We just want to dominate from the first snap Sunday." □

## Rousey, coach decline to answer champ's mother's criticism

**GREG BEACHAM**

**AP Sports Writer**

**GLENDAL, Calif. (AP) —**

UFC champion Ronda Rousey isn't sharing her opinion of her mother's sharp criticism of her coach, Edmond Tarverdyan.

Tarverdyan also declined to trade verbal shots with AnnMaria De Mars on Tuesday during a promotional appearance for Rousey's next title defense.

De Mars called Tarverdyan "a terrible coach" and "a bad person" in a video

interview with LatiNation earlier this month. De Mars claims Tarverdyan "hit the lottery" when Rousey decided to study mixed martial arts with him.

"Any reaction or response I have to my mother, she's going to hear it from me, and not a media outlet," Rousey said, declining to indicate whether she had confronted her mother about it.

Rousey's mother is a former judo world champion who introduced her daughter

to the sport and raised her to be an Olympic medalist. Rousey took up MMA after the Beijing Olympics and swiftly became the UFC's first women's bantamweight champion in late 2012.

Rousey and Tarverdyan have been working together for five years. Tarverdyan, a veteran combat sportstrainer who also has worked with boxer Vic Darchinyan and other UFC fighters, declined to say much about De Mars' opinions. □



**UFC champion Ronda Rousey and her coach Edmond Tarverdyan are seen at a promotional appearance for Rousey's next title defense in Glendale, Calif., Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015.**

**Associated Press**



## New online site hopes to be the Rotten Tomatoes for theater

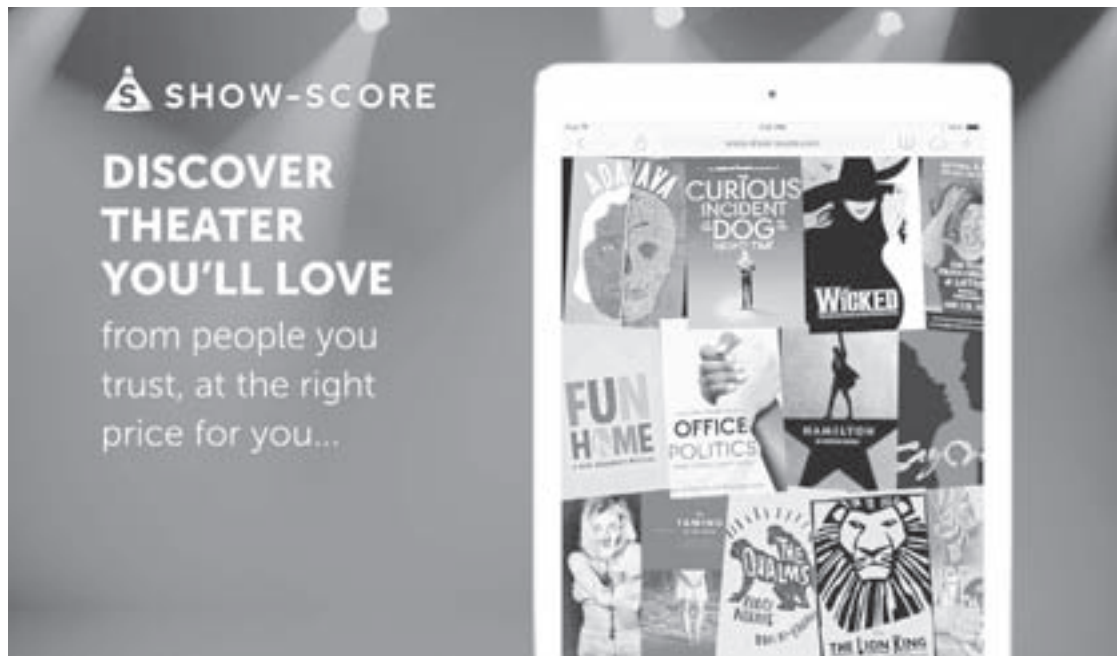
**MARK KENNEDY**

**AP Drama Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Like a lot of people, Tom Melcher was frustrated with the amount of work it took to find something to watch onstage in New York. Unlike a lot of people, he did something about it.

Melcher, a startup guru and veteran of such sites as CNET and MongoDB, recently moved to New York and threw himself into the theater scene. To pick shows to watch, he would Google past reviews while his wife, Sharon, would cruise the discount ticket sites. It was time-consuming, and Melcher yearned for a something like Rotten Tomatoes for theater-goers. Everyone he asked seemed frustrated, too. He offered to help anyone create a site, but no one would commit. So he jumped in. "My friends will tell you I get to a point when I get so obsessed and frustrated about a problem that I can't not do it," said Melcher. "I needed to find a better way."

He thinks he's found it in Show-Score — an audience-friendly guide he launched with his own money in which people can search hundreds of



This screenshot image provided by Show-Score.com shows a web page for Show-Score.com.

Associated Press

New York shows by theme, find reviews by critics and users, and tickets at the best price.

So far, the site has been a hit. It launched Sept. 15 and hit 10,000 members on Tuesday. It hopes to one day offer the same resources to theatergoers in London, Los Angeles, northern California, Toronto and Chicago.

Inspired by Netflix and Amazon, the site lets audience-goers find exactly what they want — options include a show with puppets, a Shakespeare revival or a romance, and many

more. There also are guides for folks who like their shows 90 minutes or less, family friendly or even scary, in time for Halloween.

Deeksha Gaur, a co-founder and director of content and community, said the site employs seven people, including four theater professionals with master's degrees whose job is to sift and evaluate reviews from some 1,300 distinct publications and bloggers.

"What we're really trying to do is understand what the reviewer is saying and trying to read between the lines as much as we can,"

said Gaur, who has held senior marketing positions at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, Two River Theater Company and Long Wharf Theatre.

Users — who cannot log in anonymously — are encouraged to review, too. First, they are asked to rank the work on a scale of 1-100, then they are asked to pick among a list of words to describe it (from "dizzying" to "banal") and to comment on two sections "See it if..." and "Don't see it if..."

"Even if you're sitting there in the audience and you're going, 'You know, this

sucks,' we want you to say, 'OK, it does not appeal to you. Who would like it?'" said Melcher. "If you spin it that way, we've found with consumers everyone is like, 'Oh, yeah, you're right I didn't like it, but my mother would love this show.'"

Users can follow individual artists they admire, theater companies or any reviewers. Email alerts can be configured about upcoming shows they might like, shows that score over 80 or artists they follow who are opening new things.

Reviewers — whether professional or amateur — gain influence on the site based on the number of followers they amass, the number of reviews they write and whether other users have deemed their opinions helpful.

The site's creators said they wanted to build something for the average person who found researching shows too hard and who eventually just stayed home. "Our ultimate goal with Show-Score for the near term is to get people who like theater to go more," said Melcher. He won't disclose how much he's put in the site. ("We're not in the stinking-rich category," he said, laughing. □)

## Adam Selman, MasterCard turning clothes into payment devices

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Call it payable fashion. You won't need a credit card to pay for your clothes; your clothes will BE your credit card.

MasterCard is pairing with fashion designer Adam Selman and others in a program aimed at making an array of consumer products double as mobile payment devices, including clothing but also automotive products and "yet to be imagined categories."

"The idea is that virtually any device can be a commerce device," said Sherri Haymond, group head of digital channels for MasterCard, in a telephone inter-

view Tuesday. The program was unveiled Monday at the Money 20/20 conference in Las Vegas.

Selman works closely with pop star Rihanna and designed her famous, very sheer dress for the 2014 Council of Fashion Designers of America awards. How one would hide even a microchip in such a sheer garment is, of course, hard to imagine, but Selman was chosen, Haymond said, "because he is extremely innovative, really creative. When we met Adam, his vision and our vision really connected."

Other partners set to be involved in the program: General Motors, wear-

able technology maker Nymi, jewelry company Ringly, and Bluetooth locator TrackR, according to MasterCard.

Haymond said the program uses existing technology and functionality that MasterCard has been working on for two years. "People can pay with what's most accessible to them," she said.

In the past several years, a number of fashion designers have ventured into wearable technology, with everything from clothing that measures various health functions to accessories that charge devices. As for Selman, he has produced a prototype of two



In this Sept. 10, 2015 file photo, designer Adam Selman waves to the audience after his Spring 2016 collection was modeled during Fashion Week in New York.

Associated Press

dresses, gloves, sunglasses and a handbag, all imbedded with microchips for payment.

"Technology is vital to the fashion industry," Selman said in a statement from

MasterCard. "What sets the program apart is that it features the technology, while still remaining invisible, yet interactive and totally functional with the wearer." □



# Walgreens, Rite Aid combo to spread drugstore health kick

**TOM MURPHY**

**AP Business Writer**

Walgreens will use its \$9.41 billion takeover of rival Rite Aid to spread its philosophy on making drugstores destinations for customers looking to stay healthy or buy beauty products.

The nation's largest drugstore chain also is expected to flex its beefed-up negotiating muscle to wring better deals from drugmakers and other suppliers. But experts say those discounts won't automatically trickle down to consumers.

In fact, customers may not see a huge impact on their wallets if the deal announced Tuesday evening goes through. But they will likely see some store closures or name changes and fewer brand choices after Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. adds the nation's third-largest drugstore chain to its portfolio.

They also may see more clinics in Rite Aid Corp. stores and more products like vitamins and supplements aimed at keeping them healthy, as the sector continues to stretch well beyond simply filling prescriptions.

All the major drugstore



In this file photo made Dec. 15, 2009, a customer enters a Rite Aid store in Detroit.

**Associated Press**

chains — Walgreens, CVS Health Corp., and Rite Aid — have been revamping their stores for the past few years to make them bigger providers of health care products and other services. They're trying to appeal to customers who want to do more one-stop shopping and take advantage of the vast network of stores that the chains have built. Drugstores also are shifting to serve the aging baby boom population and its

health needs, as well as the growing number of people who are shopping around more for health care instead of simply visiting their family doctors. And they're fending off competition from grocery chains and big retailers like Wal-Mart that have added thousands of pharmacies to their stores and offer steep discounts on some drugs. CVS, in fact, is partnering with the retailer Target Corp. to run its in-store clin-

ics and pharmacies.

Camp Hill, Pennsylvania-based Rite Aid runs about 4,600 drugstores in 31 states and the District of Columbia. Its combination with Walgreens would create a drugstore behemoth that runs more than 12,700 stores in the United States. That's about 64 percent more than the next largest competitor, CVS, not counting that company's still-evolving partnership with Target.

But Walgreens may have to close hundreds of stores to ease federal regulatory concerns about competition.

That will depend on how the deal changes the competitive balance in individual markets.

Aside from the big chains, there are still about 22,000 independent pharmacies in the United States, according to the National Community Pharmacists Association. Around half are in rural or undeserved areas, spokesman John Norton said. That total includes pharmacies that are part of small, privately held chains and those that serve niche markets like a hospital or a specialty such as oncology.

Once a Walgreens-Rite Aid deal closes, the company will likely hold a "bit of a beauty contest" with suppliers to see who can give them the best deals on products sold in the front of their stores, or the area outside the pharmacy, said Paul Keckley, who studies health care issues as managing director of the Navigant Center for Healthcare Research and Policy Analysis. □



In this July 13, 2015, file photo, United Auto Workers President Dennis Williams speaks as General Motors CEO Mary Barra, background left, listens during a ceremony to mark the opening of contract negotiations in Detroit.

**Associated Press**

**DEE-ANN DURBIN**

**AP Auto Writer**

**DETROIT (AP)** — United Auto Workers leaders have approved a proposed contract with General Motors Co. that promises raises, improvements in health care and a hefty signing

bonus.

Leaders from GM's 63 U.S. facilities met in Detroit to discuss and vote on the agreement Wednesday. Now it must be ratified by GM's U.S. hourly workers.

The four-year contract covers 52,600 GM factory

## UAW leaders approve proposed contract with GM

workers.

Like a previous contract ratified by Fiat Chrysler workers, GM's agreement would eliminate a two-tier wage system over eight years.

GM currently pays recent hires around \$15.78 per hour. Under the new agreement, workers with four or more years of experience will make the top \$29 hourly wage within four years; workers with less experience would make between \$22.50 and \$28 in four years and top wages in eight years.

UAW President Dennis Williams had promised — and won — richer benefits from GM, which is a bigger and wealthier company than

FCA. GM reported last week that it earned \$1.36 billion in the third quarter. FCA lost \$339 million during the quarter because of big recall costs in North America.

"There were multiple things we were able to do because of GM's wealth," Williams said.

Williams said lower-tier workers — who make up 20 percent of GM's hourly workforce — will now be eligible for traditional health care benefits. Both tiers of workers would get an \$8,000 signing bonus if they ratify the contract, higher than the \$3,000 and \$4,000 bonuses offered at FCA. And the profit-sharing formula in GM's proposed

agreement promises \$1,000 per \$1 billion of GM's North American profits. FCA is giving workers \$800 based on percentage gains in its North American margins.

GM's proposed contract also offers \$60,000 for up to 4,000 eligible employees who agree to retire next spring. Williams said that is meant as a reward to longtime workers who stuck with the company and gave up wages and benefits during its 2009 bankruptcy.

The UAW and GM reached the proposed agreement Sunday night just before a deadline the union had set to strike. Williams said he didn't yet know when workers will begin voting on it. □





This Monday, July 6, 2015, file photo, shows a sign for Wall Street carved into the side of a building, in New York.

Associated Press

## After a wobble, stocks end higher as investors watch the Fed

MARLEY JAY

AP Markets Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The stock market ended solidly higher Wednesday, recovering from an afternoon wobble, after the Federal Reserve indicated that it will consider raising its benchmark interest rate at its December meeting. Bond yields rose and the dollar climbed against other currencies as traders anticipated that higher rates were on the way. The Dow Jones industrial average had been up 130 points just before the Fed released its policy statement at 2 p.m. Eastern time, then briefly retreated into the red after the statement came out. By late afternoon the Dow more than recovered, closing up 198.09 points, or 1.1 percent, at 17,779.52. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 24.46 points, or 1.2 percent, to 2,090.35. The Nasdaq composite picked up 65.55 points, or 1.3 percent, to 5,095.69.

The prospect of higher interest rates set off a rally in banks, which stand to make more money on lending. Bank stocks in the S&P 500 jumped 2.4 percent, twice as much as the broader index. The dollar rose against the yen and the euro. If the Fed does begin to raise rates in December, it would come as central banks in Europe and Japan continue to pursue stimulus programs. The euro fell sharply against the dollar, to \$1.0925 from \$1.1040 late Tuesday. The

dollar rose to 121.03 yen from 120.33 yen.

In bond trading, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.09 percent from 2.04 percent the day earlier. Yields on Treasury notes affect rates on mortgages and many other kinds of loans.

Oil prices soared after Pemex, the national oil company of Mexico, said it received permission to swap crude oil with the U.S. That could represent a step toward ending the U.S. ban on exporting crude. The price of oil had been sliding since early October and reached its lowest level in two months Tuesday. The 6.3 percent gain Wednesday was the largest increase since Aug. 31. U.S. crude climbed \$2.74 to \$45.94 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, which is used to price international oils, rose \$2.24, or 4.8 percent, to \$49.05 a barrel in London. In other energy trading, wholesale gasoline rose 6.3 cents to close at \$1.350 a gallon in New York, heating oil rose 6 cents to \$1.484 a gallon and natural gas fell 5.93 cents to \$2.033 per 1,000 cubic feet.

While the Fed news weighed heavily on the broader market, earnings reports continued to drive many individual stocks. Northrop Grumman surged \$9.90, or 5.5 percent, to \$190.50 after the defense contractor said it received a contract worth up to \$80 billion to build new bombers for the Air Force. □

## Fed keeps rate at record low but will consider December hike



In this Sept. 30, 2015 file photo, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen speaks to a conference of bankers and financial leaders at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Federal Reserve is keeping its key short-term interest rate at a record low in the face of threats from a weak global economy and excessively low inflation. But it suggested the possibility of a rate hike in December. A statement the Fed issued Wednesday said it would seek to determine "whether it will be appropriate to raise the target range at its next meeting" by monitoring the progress on employment and inflation. It marked the first time in seven years of record-low rates that the central bank has raised the possibility that it could raise its benchmark rate at its next meeting. In a further signal that a rate hike could occur at their last meeting of the year, policymakers sounded less gloomy about global economic pressures. They removed a sentence from their September statement that had warned about global pressures after news of a sharper-than-expected slowdown in China.

"They implied they'd do it this year," Patrick O'Keefe, director of economic research at the accounting firm CohnReznick, said after the Fed issued its statement after ending its latest policy meeting. "The econ-

omy is not cooperating. It has to be immensely frustrating ... The global economy is still decelerating and we're seeing a softening of growth domestically."

Stocks gave up some of their gains after the Fed's mid-afternoon announcement and the yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose slightly.

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said he expects a December rate hike if the jobs reports for October and November show the labor market is getting stronger.

"Some combination of payrolls, unemployment and wages signaling continued improvement will be enough," he wrote in a note to clients.

Still, the Fed indicated that the economy is expanding only modestly. And in a nod to recent weaker data, policymakers said in their statement that the pace of job gains had slowed — an indication that they may be concerned about the pace of hiring.

While many Fed officials have signaled a desire to raise rates before year's end, tepid economic reports in recent weeks had led some analysts to predict no hike until 2016.

The Fed's statement Wednesday was approved

on a 9-1 vote, with Jeffrey Lacker, president of the Fed's Richmond regional bank, dissenting. As he had in September, Lacker favored a quarter-point rate hike.

The Fed has kept the target for its benchmark funds rate at a record low in a range of zero to 0.25 percent since December 2008. Yellen after the September meeting noted that 13 of 17 Fed officials expected the first rate hike to occur this year. But some economic reports since then have been subpar including a slowdown in job growth for September.

Some of the U.S. weakness has occurred because of a global economic slowdown, led by China, that's inflicted wide-ranging consequences. U.S. job growth has flagged. Wages and inflation are subpar. Consumer spending is sluggish. Investors are nervous. And manufacturing is being hurt by a stronger dollar, which has made U.S. goods pricier overseas.

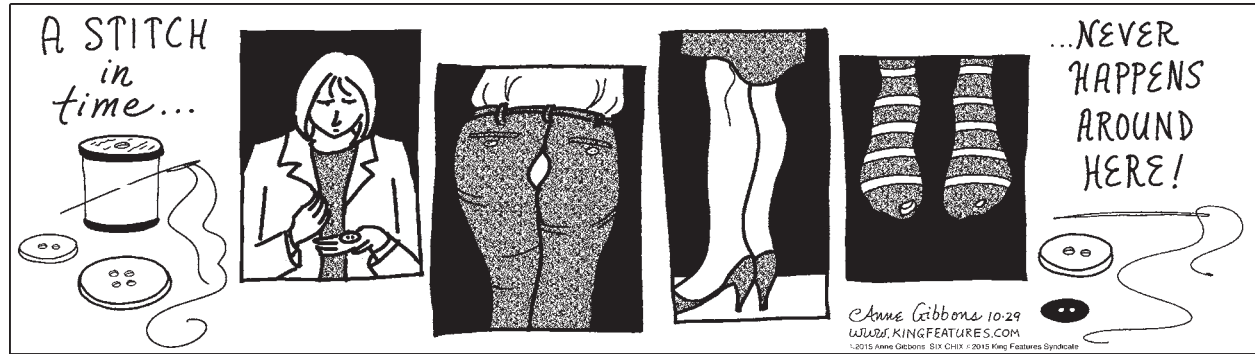
The Fed cut its benchmark rate to near zero during the Great Recession to encourage borrowing and spending to boost a weak economy. Since then, hiring has significantly strengthened, and unemployment has fallen to a seven-year low of 5.1 percent. □



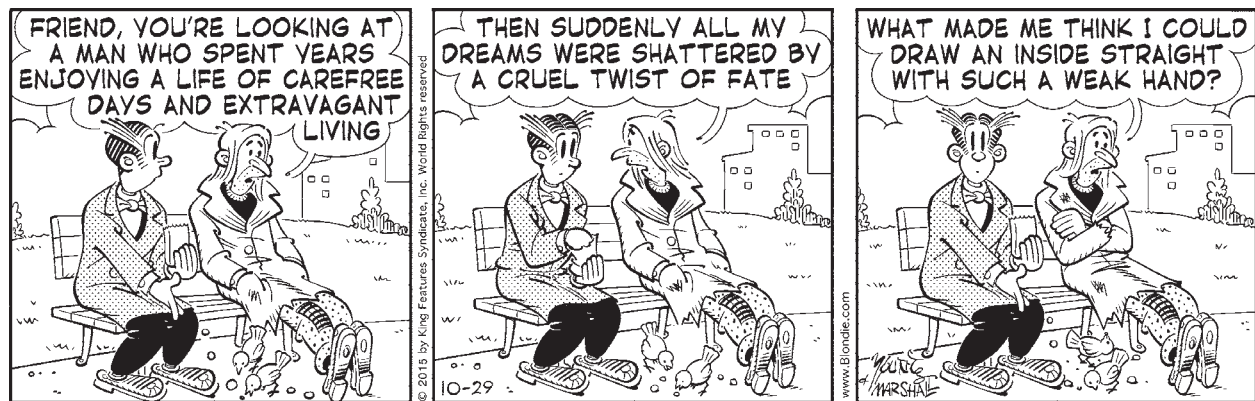
Mutts



6 Chix



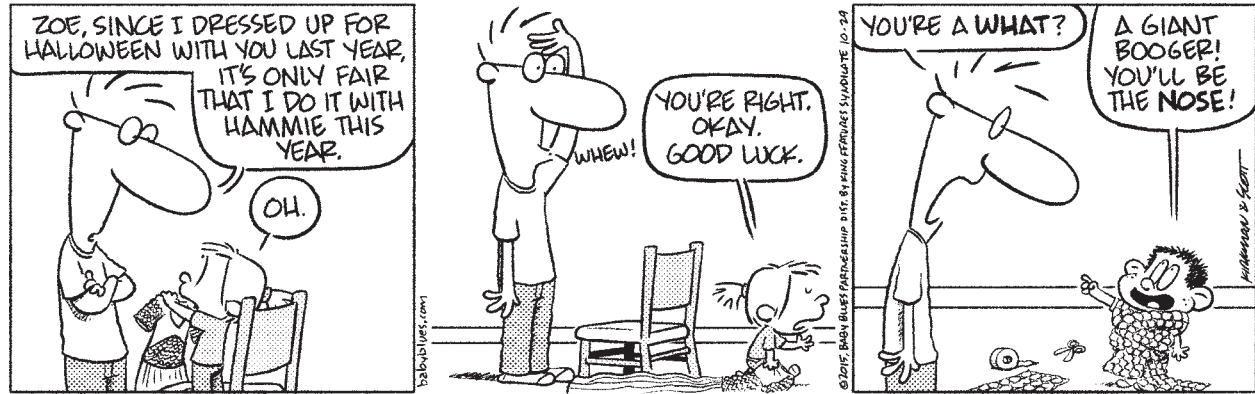
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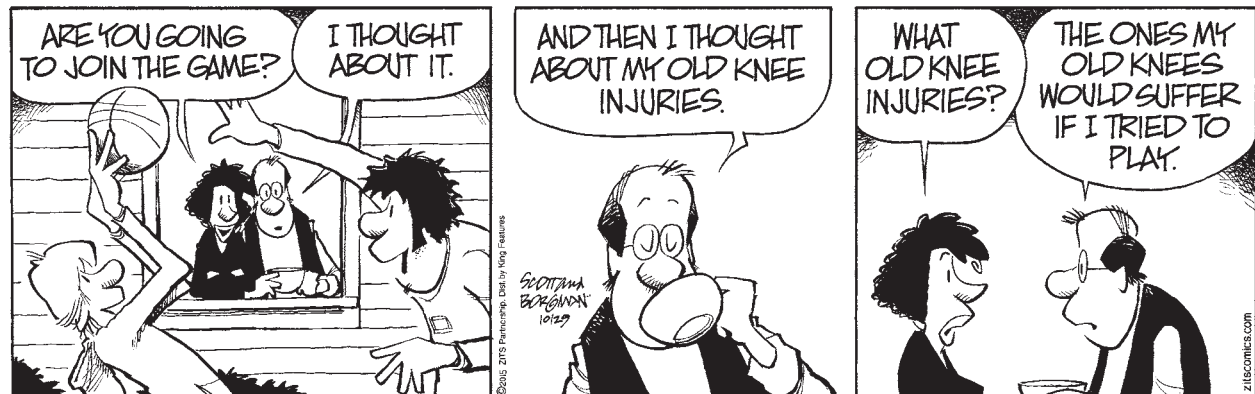
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

3				4				8
		7			6	5		
					2			
	6	9						
7			5	3	8			4
						2	5	
			4					
		2	1			9		
4				5				3

Difficulty Level ★★★

10/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

5	8	6	7	3	9	4	1	2
9	1	2	8	4	6	5	3	7
7	4	3	5	2	1	6	9	8
4	9	5	3	7	2	8	6	1
8	2	1	6	9	5	7	4	3
6	3	7	4	1	8	2	5	9
3	5	8	1	6	7	9	2	4
2	7	4	9	5	3	1	8	6
1	6	9	2	8	4	3	7	5

ACROSS

- 1 Farm vehicle
- 5 Loft
- 10 Q-tip, for one
- 14 Midwest state
- 15 Elvis' "Blue \_ Shoes"
- 16 Walking stick
- 17 Long journey
- 18 Calcutta's land
- 19 Finds a sum
- 20 Book appendixes
- 22 Large fish-eating birds
- 24 Opponent
- 25 Common metal
- 26 Double-dealing
- 29 Faux \_; social blunder
- 30 Actor Stacy \_
- 34 Pres. James \_ Carter
- 35 Rollaway bed
- 36 "Time in a \_", Jim Croce song
- 37 Part of a royal flush
- 38 Loud enough to be heard
- 40 Motorists' org.
- 41 In one's second childhood
- 43 Traitor
- 44 Cut coupons
- 45 Hobo
- 46 Split \_ soup
- 47 Tropical trees
- 48 Donahue and Mickelson
- 50 Overalls part
- 51 Fancier version
- 54 Nutcase
- 58 Delight
- 59 Rarin' to go
- 61 City in Nevada
- 62 Iacocca and Majors
- 63 From the East
- 64 Dines
- 65 Hairy oxen
- 66 Gives to a borrower
- 67 Horse's gait

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21				22	23			
			24				25					
26	27	28			29			30	31	32	33	
34				35			36					
37				38			39			40		
41		42			43				44			
45				46				47				
		48		49			50					
51	52	53					54			55	56	57
58				59		60				61		
62				63					64			
65				66					67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/29/15

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

BEND	GATES	JINNS
ICED	ASIDE	RAIL
THEE	LIP	SERVICE
SOD	ALAS	OILED
PRETTY	LINEN	TAN
OASIS	SLURS	VET
KISS	PIANO	BETA
ELL	SLAPS	SERUM
SYSTEM	SCALPS	
CAD	LLAMA	
ABDUL	MAIM	PRO
CORRESPOND	UPON	
HAIR	PEACE	FETE
ESPY	AGNES	ODES

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10/29/15

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 36 Sandwich letters  | 50 Scorches        |
| 38 Fraternity letter | 51 Hideous         |
| 39 Pasture cry       | 52 Tearful request |
| 42 Make a hit with   | 53 Nerd            |
| 44 Musical for Liza  | 54 Guide; direct   |
| 46 Make happy        | 55 Rip             |
| 47 Brooch            | 56 Bump _; meet    |
| 49 Just right        | 57 Expense         |
|                      | 60 _ and tonic     |



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wk 43 room 329 \$3,250  
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2 bedroom week 43 room #4012  
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**Dutch Village**  
2bedroom Town House week 44  
room # 85  
(19 weeks remain on the contract)  
Price : \$ 6000  
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# Lions, pride of Africa, vanishing in West Africa

**MICHELLE FAUL**  
**Associated Press**

**LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)** — Lions, that symbol of Africa's wild beauty, power and freedom, no longer roam in Mali. Or in Ivory Coast or Ghana or war-shattered eastern Congo. Or most of the rest of West Africa.

Three years of searching and no sight of a lion for Philipp Henschel, lion survey coordinator for the New York-based Panthera conservation group. Then he saw it, his first lion in West Africa. And in of all places, Nigeria.

"It came as a big surprise because Nigeria has by far the biggest human population on the continent, and the national parks are fairly small compared to others in West Africa that already have lost their lions," Henschel told The Associated Press.

"Everyone was excited, including rangers from Nigeria's National Park Service — it was the first time they had seen one too."

That was in 2009. The count was depressing: 25 to 30 lions left in Kainji Lake National Park in west-central Nigeria and only about five in the east-central Yankari National Park. Three years earlier, Nigerian conservationists had reported lions present in six protected areas, but they had apparently disappeared in four of them, Henschel said.

Henschel has gone on to survey all 21 protected areas believed to harbor lions in West Africa. He has seen only nine lions in four reserves, including Senegal's Niokolo-Koba National Park and the trans-frontier Pendjari and Aïri National Parks of Benin and Burkina Faso. His research, published last year, reported that lions no longer exist in 99 percent of

their historic range in West Africa — a finding that prompted the International Union for Conservation of Nature to put the lions of West Africa on its Red List as critically endangered.

The situation is dire in much of Africa.

New research published Monday shows sharp declines since 1990 in nearly all lion populations in West

most lions are in fenced reserves, the survey found. With the international spotlight on lion conservation intensified by outrage over the killing this year of Cecil the lion in Zimbabwe by an American hunter, Henschel's Panthera group hopes to attract funding from conservation agencies and Nigerian philanthropists to make sure lions

11,000 years ago, Henschel said. Today, they exist only in India and Africa. In India, about 500 lions remain, all in Gujarat state, according to state officials. Fewer than 20,000 lions roam the wilds in all of Africa, according to an estimate from the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

In West Africa, only 400 lions remain, according to Hen-

and farmers, leaving even less space for lions.

The trophy hunting that killed Cecil is legal in only two West African countries, Burkina Faso and Benin, but the number of kills that once caused local declines has diminished since the European Union banned imports of lion trophies from both countries over the past year.

Before that, the EU used to be the largest importer of lion kills from the region, Henschel said, adding that the U.S. is considering listing the West African lion as endangered under its Endangered Species Act, which would prevent trophy imports by American hunters. With their short manes or none at all, West African lions look more like Asian lions than their southern and east African cousins. They are celebrated in Nigeria as a national symbol of pride in paintings on buses, the logo of the National Park Service and even a cement label, but they have proved easy to kill. When lions stray from protected areas and kill cattle, herds-men will sometimes poison the cow's carcass to kill the lion, Henschel said.

The 40-year-old Henschel has lived nearly half his life in Gabon, nurturing a dream to re-establish a lion population in that West African nation after their two-decade-long absence. Suddenly, it could become a reality. In January, a researcher studying chimpanzees accidentally filmed a lion. Primate researcher Ivonne Kienast of the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology caught the image in Gabon's Bateke Plateau National Park, where lions have not been sighted since 1995. □



**This Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015 photo released by Philipp Henschel shows a lion in the Bateke Plateau National Park in Gabon, a country where lions have not been sighted since 1995.**

**Associated Press**

and Central Africa, and that both regions risk losing half their lions within the next two decades. East Africa stands a 37 percent chance of halving its lion population over the same period, according to the survey published in the Proceedings of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and written by researchers including Henschel.

Lion populations are increasing in only four southern African nations: Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe, where

do not disappear here. Panthera and the Oxford University-based WildCRU are hosting a Cecil Summit in February in Oxford to draw attention to the threat to lions like Cecil, who conservationists say was lured out of a protected area in Zimbabwe's Hwange National Park before being wounded with a bow and arrow and then tracked down and killed.

Lions roamed much of the world, from Africa, across Europe and Asia, and even North America until about

schel's research, making them likely the most endangered lions on the planet. In the competition for land and food between lions and humans, the king of the jungle is losing. The decline is due to growing populations of peasant farmers encroaching on their traditional ranges, poachers feeding a growing appetite for bush meat, like antelopes, that are lions' sole food source, and global warming fueling a deadly conflict for grazing land between nomadic herders



# Bullock steps into a man's role in 'Our Brand is Crisis'

LINDSEY BAHR

AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Is she going to be hot?

That's the question a studio executive asked Sandra Bullock about the lead character in a project she was pitching well into her Hollywood career.

"I looked at him and I go, 'Well, it is me, so you get what you get. You do realize that I'm pitching this for me?'" recalled Bullock in a recent interview.

"He goes, 'Yeah, but I want to know, like, what is she going to wear?'"

Things have gotten a little better since then. In "Our Brand is Crisis," out Friday, Bullock plays a role originally written for a man, and no one checked in to see whether or not the savvy political consultant character was going to be a bombshell, too.

But this is the exception. Bullock's conversation with the studio executive remains an all too familiar scene for actresses in Hollywood, where sexist presumptions are engrained in the culture.

Then there's the matter of substance with roles for women. Bullock can't remember how many times



In this Monday, Oct. 26, 2015 file photo, actress Sandra Bullock arrives at the LA Premiere of "Our Brand is Crisis" held at the TCL Chinese Theatre, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

she's had to listen to a writer try to explain how the "the wife" is really the heart of the movie.

"I know what that means. That means you're going to be underwritten and you're just going to be the wife waking up in bed with the husband and making the coffee," she said. "If you say that I'm the heart of the piece, I'm going to (expletive) clock you."

That's why Bullock and her agent started looking

at roles for men. After all, male characters don't always have to be likable. Their comedies don't have to be of the romantic variety.

And the first question from studio executives probably isn't going to be "Is he hot?"

When Bullock read the unproduced screenplay for "Our Brand is Crisis," she decided to call longtime friends George Clooney and producer Grant Hes-

lov to see if there was any chance they might consider her for the lead — an amoral, Sun Tzu-quoting political consultant who's come out of retirement for a showdown with an old rival. They said yes.

To adapt the part, they changed around some pronouns, they gave the character a woman's name, and they added some sexual innuendos with her foe (Billy Bob Thornton). But overall, it remained as

originally written.

Part of that is the strength of screenwriter Peter Straughan's script, said Thornton.

The transition from male to female was easy because it was never a type to begin with — the gender was almost incidental.

"I tend as a writer to not identify characters unless there's a reason for it," said Thornton. "(Straughan) wrote it as a person."

From there, director David Gordon Green and his actors could focus on the big ideas in this satirical story about a failing Bolivian presidential candidate and the American lackeys hired to try to manipulate his image and a country for the win.

As someone whose father worked in the Pentagon, Bullock understands the allure of stories about the underbelly of politics.

The do-anything candidates and unscrupulous mercenaries in "Our Brand is Crisis" are especially resonant now, she notes.

"You watch a debate and you watch these people doing their thing — even if it's a candidate you like — you watch them just (expletive) people. □

## Broadway producers reach out to young people with new site

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Broadway producers have created a new website to reach out to a special demographic — one more familiar with twerking than jazz hands.

The Broadway League, the industry's trade association, on Wednesday unveiled its new BwayZone.com, an interactive site designed to attract children ages 8 to 13 that's packed with video, photos and stories about shows.

"There really is no place online where families and kids can go and really interact with Broadway content that's really about kids and for kids," said Jan Friedlander Svendsen, director of marketing and business development.

"We want to make it cool

for kids but also we want parents and also even educators to come and find content there and help promote it to their kids," she said. Modeled on Instagram and Tumblr, the mobile friendly site is packed with various posts for theater fans: backstage interviews with actors, photos of cute dogs owned by actors, the rapper Drake who spins a Tony Award in a GIF from his "Hotline Bling" video and a time-lapse video of "Kinky Boots" actor Kyle Taylor Parker getting into his Lola makeup on tour. It's part of the league's overall push to engage families. Other efforts have included Kid's Night on Broadway, the National High School Musical Theatre Awards and Family First Nights.

Charlotte St. Martin, the



In this Jan. 19, 2012 file photo shows a Broadway street in Times Square, in New York.

Associated Press

league president, said the goal isn't to sell tickets but to engage fans. "We know that once we get families to theater that we've hooked them for life. But it's getting them there," she said.

Content for the site comes from four places: league-generated video and photos, submissions from Broadway shows them-

selves, partners like Playbill or Broadway World and user-generated images and stories. So far, the league is funding the operation at a loss without advertising.

League staff will be curating all BwayZone items, sifting through social media submissions, tweets and content before putting it up. The content will

change all day, but it will all be G-rated.

"Everything on the site is moderated. There's always somebody saying, 'Yes, I want that on the website' rather than anything flowing through automatically," said Neal Freeman, director of digital and technology.

"We're using content from a lot of places, and we're happy to feature content that's in various other publications that's Broadway related. We want to be a window — a portal — for our users."

Billed as "Broadway's Official Family Club," the league hopes to one day increase BwayZone engagement levels by adding sweepstakes, games and loyalty points that can be cashed in for badges or even tickets to shows. □



## Review: Truman Capote's early stories worthwhile for fans

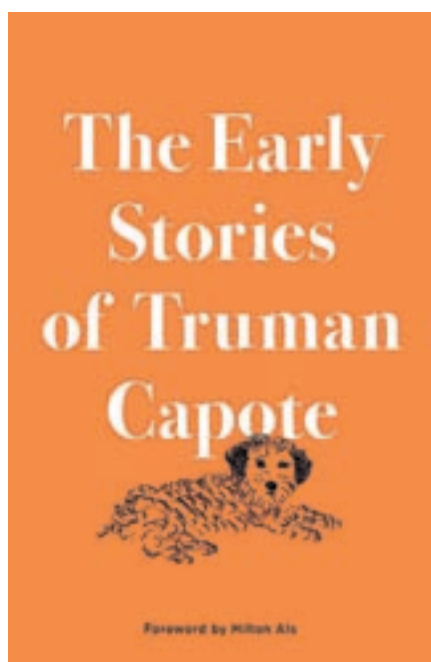
**BETH J. HARPAZ**  
Associated Press

"The Early Stories of Truman Capote" collects 14 short fiction pieces by the writer, including some that were published in his high school newspaper in Greenwich, Connecticut, when he was a teenager.

Capote is best known for his novel "Breakfast at Tiffany's," which was immortalized by a Hollywood film starring Audrey Hepburn, and by his nonfiction book "In Cold Blood," a

gripping novelistic account of the murder of a Kansas farm family and their killers. Many Capote fans may also be familiar with his memorable, poignant short story, "A Christmas Memory," about a little boy's holiday with an aging cousin amid poverty, love and loss.

If you're expecting short fiction gems of that caliber in this collection, however, you'll be disappointed. Most of the plots in these stories don't seem quite fully realized; others feel derivative or formulaic, lacking the originality of Capote's later works. But here's the good news: The stories in the new edition are extremely readable, and as a window on the young writer's emerging



This photo provided by Random House, a division of Penguin Random House, shows the cover of the book, "The Early Stories of Truman Capote," by Truman Capote.  
Associated Press

voice and creativity, they are worthwhile.

Capote's ability to conjure a time, place and mood with just a few sentences is remarkable. A Gothic tone and sense of foreboding seems to hang over every scene as his characters, whether children or grown-ups, confront their personal demons.

Some stories involve truly life-threatening terrors like snakebites or escaped convicts in the woods; others merely describe the everyday heartbreak faced by individuals who feel, for whatever reason, alone and unloved. □

## Hasbro says it didn't steal host's identity for toy hamster



In this April 28, 2015, file photo, Fox News anchor Harris Faulkner poses for a photo on the set in New York.  
Associated Press

**NEWARK, N.J. (AP)** — Hasbro Inc. wants a federal judge to dismiss a \$5 million lawsuit filed by a Fox News anchor who says a toy hamster shares her name and resembles her.

Harris Faulkner sued Hasbro in August over its plastic Harris Faulkner hamster, sold as part of the Pawtucket, Rhode Island-based company's popular "Littlest Pet Shop" line. She says the toy wrongfully appropriates her name and persona, harms her professional credibility as a journalist and is an insult.

The toy company says in a filing Monday in federal

court in New Jersey that the toy and Faulkner share nothing in common except for their name and that the toy and newscaster are distinctly different and there's no basis to find that Hasbro misappropriated her unique identity.

"Ms. Faulkner is an adult, African-American, human, female newscaster; the Hamster Toy is an inch-tall, cartoon-like plastic animal, which has no apparent gender or profession, or even clothing that might identify its gender or profession," the company said in its motion.

Faulkner's lawsuit says that

in addition to sharing her name, the toy bears a physical resemblance to Faulkner's traditional professional appearance, including its complexion, eye shape and eye make-up design.

The Harris Faulkner toy was introduced in 2014, according to the lawsuit, and was sold in a package as the pet hamster of a terrier named Benson Detwyler. Other toys in the popular line include animals named Pancakes Watkins, Puffball Petrovsky and Pepper Clark.

The lawsuit says Faulkner, a New Jersey resident, never gave permission for Hasbro to use her name or likeness and that she even demanded in January that Hasbro stop using it. More than three weeks later, it was still for sale on Hasbro's website, the lawsuit contends. It says that as of July, Faulkner's name was still being used on a website to sell "Littlest Pet Shop" products, and the plastic hamster that bears her name can still be bought at other online retail stores.

Faulkner hosts the daytime show "Outnumbered" and anchors a Sunday evening newscast for Fox News. □

## 'Reporting Always': collection of writings by Lillian Ross

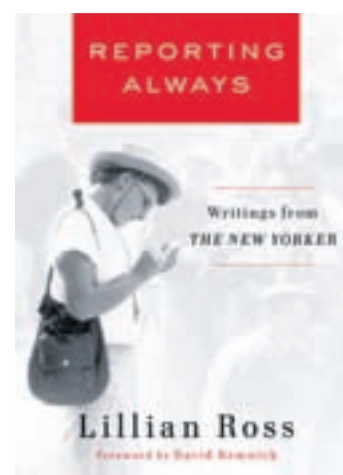
**LINCÉE RAY**  
Associated Press

There are few people who can say they have been on the company's payroll for decades. Lillian Ross is one of those individuals. She began her career at The New Yorker in 1945 as a reporter for "The Talk of the Town" section. Seven decades later, audiences

continue to be charmed by a collection of her writings in "Reporting Always." Ross was 19 when she was hired by managing editor Harold Ross. Although impatient, he was a mentor who encouraged her to "follow your own bent." Whether it was her young age or an eagerness to succeed at an exciting

new job, Ross wasn't afraid to tackle each assignment with her own style. Basic curiosity was the building block of that style.

One endearing entry is an essay featuring Ernest Hemingway. The novelist welcomes Ross to tag along on a few excursions as he and his family visit New York City for a few days in 1950.



This photo provided by Scribner shows the cover of the book, "Reporting Always," by author Lillian Ross.  
Associated Press



## Elizabeth Banks will return to direct 'Pitch Perfect 3'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Elizabeth Banks is coming back to the world of a cappella to direct "Pitch Perfect 3." Universal Pictures made the announcement Tuesday. The actress and producer made her directorial debut with this summer's "Pitch Perfect 2." The \$29 million film has grossed \$286 million worldwide to date.

A follow-up was green-lit soon after the sequel's release, with Banks and husband Max Handelman returning as producers, but it had been unclear at that time whether Banks would decide to direct the third film.

"Pitch Perfect 3" is set for release Aug. 4, 2017. It will bring back stars Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson, Brittany



In this Sept. 12, 2015 file photo, Elizabeth Banks poses for photographers upon arrival at the awards ceremony for the 72nd edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy.

Snow and Banks. Kay Cannon, who wrote the first two films, is set to pen the screenplay. □



This undated image released by Destination America shows the St. Louis-area home which was the site of an exorcism in 1949. It was also the inspiration for the film, "The Exorcist."

Associated Press

## Carrie Underwood to headline New Year's concert in NYC



In this Sept. 28, 2015, file photo, Carrie Underwood poses for a portrait at Sony Music Nashville in Nashville, Tenn., to promote her latest album, "Storyteller."

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Get ready to ring in the New Year with Carrie Underwood.

ABC announced Wednesday that the country star will perform a number of her hits during "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve With Ryan Seacrest" in New York City's Times Square.

The bi-coastal event will also include Fergie, who

will host the Billboard Hollywood Party.

Jenny McCarthy will report live from Times Square.

Underwood released her fifth studio album, "Storyteller," last week.

More performers at the New Year's concert will be announced at a later date.

The special, which airs live, starts at 8 p.m. Eastern. □

**DAVID BAUDER**  
AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Destination America network's "Exorcism: Live!" on Friday could either turn out to be the scariest pre-Halloween program on television or the ghostly version of Al Capone's vault. There isn't much middle ground.

The mostly live, two-hour telecast will culminate in an attempt to rid a suburban St. Louis home of supposed malevolent spirits. The boy who was the subject of the head-turning 1949 exorcism immortalized in William Peter Blatty's 1971 book, "The Exorcist," and subsequent movie, briefly lived in the Bel-Nor, Missouri house.

"This, to me at least, is probably the quintessential American horror story," said Henry Schleiff, group president at Discovery Communications who oversees the network, and no stranger to colorful promotions. At Investigations Discovery, he ran a "Wives With Knives" marathon one year as counterprogramming on Super Bowl Sunday.

Only three years old, Destination America is available in about half of the nation's TV homes. It has

established a specialty in programs about the paranormal like "Ghost Asylum" and "A Haunting," and is looking for some major attention. Schleiff brought up Capone's name unbidden, to promise "Exorcism: Live!" will be different. The reference to Geraldo Rivera's 1986 special where he opened the gangster's vault to find next to nothing has become shorthand for much-hyped television programs that fail to deliver. "I don't know if I believe in ghosts," he said.

"But I believe in research, and it says 60 percent of people believe in ghosts. I genuinely believe this will be an entertaining and informative show and I'm very proud to be associated with it."

The exorcism of the boy known as Roland Doe was completed outside of the house, but there's evidence bad vibes remain there, said Jodi Tovay, who developed the special.

Chip Coffey, a psychic who participates in the show, said the spirits communicated with him when he visited the house, and a picture of Pope Francis was mysteriously ripped from

his hand. "This stuff is real," Coffey said. "This is nothing to play around with."

Without that confirmation from Coffey and other psychics that something creepy remains there, Tovay said that Destination America wouldn't go to the house.

The boy who was the subject of the 1949 exorcism is still alive. Now 80 and living in the Washington, D.C. area, he guards his privacy and declined to participate in the special, Tovay said. Similarly, the people now living in the St. Louis house vacated for the production and would not discuss their own experiences there. The special will have some pre-produced segments, including stories of past demonic possessions and excerpts from the diary of Doe's lead exorcist. They'll show the bed where he was exorcised. The bulk of the show will be a seance to try and communicate with spirits in the house and an effort to try and exorcise them. Six TV cameras will be stationed in the house and streamed live online, so second-screen viewers can monitor to see if there's any activity. □

## Ridding a house of evil spirits on TV special



# Trick or treat, Halloween collection MANGO Kids 2015



Kids?

**To be worn at any time**

MANGO Kids has launched a special collection for Halloween. Do not think you'll find terrifying costumes for the night of the living dead, but instead garments that can be exploited at any time. The items in the collection As you can see for yourself, the images, "Trick or treat" only include options for Kids. Thus, you can find jeans comfy-fit, funnel neck sweaters, shirts, jack-

ets biker zippers, denim jackets, sweatshirts, cotton trousers and a woolen bow-tie.

**Colors and patterns**

Some of the clothes in this collection feature colors like white, gray, black and red; and prints as pictures or stripes, which can serve to disguise small and scary characters like vampires or

Freddy Krueger. Witches, ghouls and vampires have found their way into our selection for Halloween. Enjoy the pictures and MANGO wishes everyone a safe but scary night. Drop in and experience our not so frightening selection. Visit our store located in downtown Oranjestad. Do not miss it! □

Still not as popular as in other countries of the world, Halloween is becoming more popular in Spain. So much so that even the fashion brands have launched special collections for this night. MANGO, a Barcelona based fashion house with more than 2,700 stores in 105 countries, just introduced the "Trick or Treat"

collection, a selection of garments based on the scariest night of the year for its Kids line. As you can see for yourself, it is not a collection of costumes, but clothes that can be perfect for dressing children on Halloween night or any other occasion. Want to discover more about the new collection of MANGO